

## Judge condemns 'political posturing'

# Rates rebels lose appeals against huge surcharges

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The 81 Labour councillors who spearheaded last year's rates rebellion, yesterday lost their appeals in the High Court against massive surcharges and banning from office.

Lord Justice Glidewell found that many of the rebels from Liverpool and Lambeth councils were guilty of "wilful misconduct". All had been guilty of "wilful misconduct" and were, therefore, liable for losses of more than £200,000.

Mr Justice Caulfield said the evidence of misconduct in Lambeth was "crushing" and that it had "reached a pinnacle of political perversity". Councils were creations of statute and not miniature Parliaments.

The judgement was one of the most important for many years and paves the way for the sweeping from office of some of the most controversial figures in local politics. Their fate ultimately will not be known until any further appeals that they may mount have been heard.

Those in court included Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth council, and Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader in Liverpool, and a supporter of Militant.

The judgement was greeted with anger which led to calls for silence. Mr Knight said afterwards that it had been a travesty and harsher than he had expected. He and his colleagues would wait for the full 28 days allowed before

deciding whether to appeal. Mr Hatton said: "The leadership of the parliamentary Labour Party and the right-wing of the National Executive Committee has to an extent ensured that we have been tried by the media."

The timing of appeals is significant because elections are due in all Lambeth seats and a third of those in Liverpool on May 8. If the rebels are disqualified, opposition councillors in both authorities will have majorities until elections are called and will have the power to reverse Labour policies.

The judgement also opened the way for further actions to recover court costs and further council losses, and could destroy the livelihood of most of the rebels, several of whom are unemployed or retired.

Mr Lionel Read, QC, for the Lambeth councillors, asked unsuccessfully for the auditors' costs to be awarded against the council rather than any of its members. He explained that the rebels were jointly and severally liable for the Lambeth surcharge of more than £100,000.

If some were unable to pay anything there would be a much greater burden on others. "An order for costs is capable of crushing literally many, if not all, of these appellants," Mr Read said.

The court's only concession was to cut the Lambeth surcharge bill by almost £20,000, for technical reasons. That still leaves the 81 rebels in

both councils with more than £200,000 to pay in surcharges alone.

If further appeals fail, or if they do not appeal within 28 days, the surcharge is big enough to trigger automatically their disqualification from all council office for five years.

Mr Justice Russell said that the Lambeth bill should not have been cut. He was convinced, unlike his brother judges, that a political campaign against the Government by the rebels had been "their dominant motive from the start."

Lord Justice Glidewell said that delaying the fixing of a rate in Lambeth "contained an implied threat that services would deteriorate and that chaos would ensue". There was no evidence of intent to carry out the threat.

The Lambeth and Liverpool case dates back to the abortive Labour rates rebellion of last year in which 20 councils were briefly involved, and of which Mr Knight was one of the architects. The idea was to delay rate-fixing in unison in the hope of putting pressure on ministers to unlock more government grant.

Liverpool and Lambeth were chosen for ten cases because they delayed for longer than anybody else.

The Audit Commission which employs district auditors, indicated after the case that they might try to recover more money from the 81 rebels.



A startled Prince Andrew was given a surprise send-off by shipmates yesterday when he left HMS Brazen at Devonport for the last time. About fifty sailors donned Biggles-style flying gear complete with goggles, flamboyant scarves and silly

uniforms, for a rousing salute to the Prince. A chief petty officer, backed by a group with guitars, sang "I'm the King of the Swingers" from the film, The Jungle Book, - but with different words. The Prince had marched on to the

flight deck to shake hands with Captain Richard Cobbold, his commanding officer, and he whipped round in surprise when a band struck up, the hangar door slowly opened and 50 pairs of feet began dancing to a tune from the musical 42nd Street.

## General Motors leads five BL bids

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons yesterday that British Leyland's bankers had received five bid declarations for parts of the state-owned company.

But he refused to respond to MPs' questions about a timescale for decisions, in spite of firm Whitehall guidance that ministers want to tie up firm deals by the end of the month.

Although the cabinet subcommittee may force a climbdown, it is also assumed that the General Motors bid will be successful because it offers the prospect of a disposal of Leyland Trucks.

Mr John Smith, the Opposition spokesman, noted in the House that because of that link ministers had got themselves into a "hopeless bargaining position".

Mr Channon announced that the firm declarations received were: from Schroder Ventures on behalf of some institutions and certain members of BL management, for Land Rover, Range Rover and Freight Rover;

from Lonrho, for Land Rover and Range Rover; from Aveling Barford, for Land Rover only; and from General Motors, for Land Rover, Range Rover, Freight Rover and Leyland Trucks.

He also said that the Laird Group and Aveling Barford were each discussing the possibility of buying Leyland Bus, in which certain members of management were also interested. There is a longer timescale for that potential sale.

Mr Channon said that he expected to receive BL board recommendations shortly and added: "The board and the Government remain anxious to end the present uncertainty surrounding these businesses as soon as possible."

He said repeatedly that decisions would be taken on the basis of the long-term interests of the different sections of the company, including Leyland Trucks.

It was also announced by Mr Channon that Mr Graham Day, the £85,000-a-year chairman of British Shipbuilders, is to take over as chairman of BL from Sir Austin Bide once decisions have been made "on the future of the main Land Rover-Leyland businesses".

Mr Day's new salary was not revealed.

Parliament, page 4

## ANC flags fly at township burial

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

As many as 50,000 people yesterday attended the funeral in Alexandra, the black ghetto in northern Johannesburg, for 17 of the people killed there last month in riots and clashes with police and troops.

It was one of the biggest "political" funerals South Africa has seen.

Black, green and yellow flags of the outlawed African National Congress were prominently displayed, and were also used as palls for each of the coffins.

The proceedings began in a dusty football stadium in the centre of the township, with several hours of emotional speeches, punctuated with dancing, singing and chants of "Viva (Nelson) Mandela" and "Viva (Oliver) Tambo" (the ANC leaders).

The coffins were then carried in a mile-long cortege, which wound through filthy back streets, stinking with uncollected garbage and night soil, to the burial ground on a bare hillside overlooking the shanty town.

The funeral was unusual in the number of whites who attended. They included diplomats from seven Western countries, including Britain, Opposition MPs, and members of the Black Sash women's civil rights group and of the National Union of South African Students. Councillors from Sandton, one of the neighbouring white districts, were also present.

The police, who said 23 people were killed in the violence, kept out of the township yesterday, but mounted roadblocks outside. Cameras were banned by the police, but many were smuggled in.

## Avalanche kills 7 troops in Norway

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

Seven Norwegian soldiers died and seven others were missing yesterday after an avalanche buried a group of 27 infantrymen on routine NATO military exercises above the Arctic Circle in Norway.

More than 100 troops using dogs and helicopters were continuing the search in appalling weather conditions.

The avalanche, in the Vassdalen valley near the port city of Narvik, came in the wake of days of a very heavy snowfall, the spokesman said.

Although the snow had eased somewhat, high winds, heavy drifting and reduced visibility continued to hamper the search.

Some 20,000 troops from eight NATO countries are participating in "Anchor Express", the largest of the alliance's biannual Northern Express exercises.

The rescue centre at Bardufoss reported last night that 17 men, including the dead, had been flown to a hospital nearby.

Three of those buried by the avalanche were unajured.

LONDON: A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said last night first reports indicated that there were no British casualties.

## Societies hit back in home loan war

By Lawrence Lever

The battle for the mortgage market between the high street banks and the building societies heated up yesterday when the three largest building societies - the Halifax, Abbey National, and Nationwide - abolished the half a per cent extra interest rate charged on endowment mortgages.

At the same time the Prudential, Britain's largest insurance company, announced that it was entering the mortgage market.

The three building societies said that the new rates - 12.75 per cent for both endowment and repayment mortgages - will apply to new borrowers.

Existing borrowers would be brought into line by at least June 1.

The move will cut £5.83 and £8.75 a month from net interest payments on a £20,000 and a £30,000 a month endowment mortgage respectively.

The gross interest payments on a £40,000 endowment mortgage will fall £16.67 a month to £425.

The move by the building societies is in response to the high street banks, which abolished differential rates last week, making their endowment mortgage rates cheaper than the building societies' rates.

The move, like that of the clearing banks, is timed to catch the traditionally buoyant demand for mortgages in the three months round Easter.

The Prudential - which expects to be lending mortgage at the rate of £500 million a year within the next few months, according to a spokesman - will also not charge differential rates.

However, the Pru's rates for mortgages below £50,000 will be 12.95 per cent - slightly more than the building societies rates but marginally below those of the high street banks.

On loans above £50,000, the Pru's rates will be the same as those of the building societies at 12.75 per cent.

Mr Tim Melville Ross, chief general manager of the Nationwide, said, however, that he was concerned at the impact the fierce competition would have on mortgage rates.

The Nationwide's abolishing of the endowment differential, as a result of the banks' pressure, could well mean that any general reduction in mortgage rates this year would be smaller than it could otherwise have been, he said.

Two of the societies, the Abbey National and Nationwide, promised to bring the two rates into line should there be a move on interest rates before June 1.

## Liverpool unions call for strike

Trade union leaders in Liverpool, called on the 31,000 city hall workforce last night to join a one-day strike today in support of the 49 Labour councillors who lost their High Court appeal against disqualification and surcharge yesterday. (Peter Davisport writes).

The call came from Mr Ian Lowe, chairman of the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee of council unions, and one of the 16 Labour Party members in the city to face expulsion over

their Militant activities.

It was not clear last night what response the call had brought. The committee has represented only two main unions since the defeat of last year's attempted all-out strike, during the financial confrontation with the government that took the city to the edge of bankruptcy.

Those unions are the General Municipal, Boilermakers' and Allied Trades Union, with 9,000 members, the largest local authority union, and the

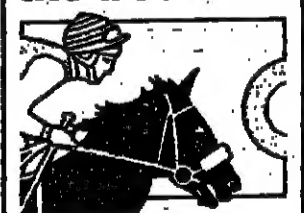
Transport and General Workers' Union, which has 2,000 members in the city.

A new umbrella organization, the Joint Trade Union Forum now represents 17,000 city hall workers from Nalge, Nipe, the National Union of Teachers and the construction workers' union UCATT, and last night leaders said they had not yet met to decide on any action.

They would wait to see whether the councillors intended to appeal

## Tomorrow

### Change for the better



The 'bare boards' image of British betting shops is about to give way to carpeted comfort, showing racing live on television, and serving snacks

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio daily competition prize of £2,000 was not won yesterday so tomorrow the prize is £4,000. Portfolio list, page 20; how to play, information service, page 32.

## Ten executed

Ten Nigerian military officers have been executed by firing squad for their involvement in a coup plot last December to topple President Ibrahim Babangida. Page 3

## Child bride

Britain's immigration laws are to be changed to prevent a repeat of the case of a bride aged 12 brought into the country by her student husband. Page 3

## No smoking

Most people want new laws to insist that no smoking areas be provided at work and in restaurants. Page 3

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## Bank of England halts £1bn merger

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Plans for a merger between Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, and Exco, the money broker, which would have created a new £1 billion financial services conglomerate, were called off yesterday after talks with the Bank of England.

The news raises questions about the future plans of both firms.

The deal foundered on the Bank's insistence that it could not make an exception to the O'Brien provisions which limit the size of bank involvement in money brokers to 10 per cent.

A spokesman for Morgan Grenfell said yesterday that both companies were disappointed. Mr Bill Matthews, chief executive of Exco, said: "We have not entirely abandoned hope but we cannot see a way forward at the moment."

He said he hoped the banking community could be persuaded to change the O'Brien provisions in which case the two companies would revive their merger talks. "In the meantime, we are looking at alternatives in the financial services sector," he added.

This is the second time in a matter of days that Morgan Grenfell has fallen foul of Bank of England rules. Last Friday the Bank of England

announced that banks could not buy strategic stakes in companies amounting to more than 25 per cent of their capital base.

The new rule was clearly prompted by Morgan Grenfell's activities in the Distillers and United Biscuits takeover battles in which it has taken large strategic stakes.

The failure of the merger plans has revived speculation that Exco's biggest shareholder, Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, the Singapore businessman, will try to buy it.

Share prices climbed sharply yesterday to push the FT 30-share index above 1,300 for the first time. It closed at 1301.3, up 20 points on the day.

A target rate of about DM3.00 would be suitable for the pound, 6½ per cent lower than present levels, according to an influential independent committee. A majority of the committee favours immediate entry at this "central rate" to the European Monetary System.

The committee, chaired by Lord Crobham (former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and now chairman of Guinness Peat) unanimously favours public targets for the exchange rate.

Shares soar, page 17

## MP learns of public money fraud charge

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, has told Mr Brian Sedgemore, the Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, that a person has been charged with a fraud involving the misappropriation of public money.

But the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Law Officers' department were yesterday unwilling to give details. It is understood to relate to the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

## Pensions for mustard gas war victims

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Up to 600 British sailors contaminated by mustard gas during an enemy bombing in Italy in 1943 are to receive pensions running into many thousands of pounds.

The move, costing the Government several million pounds, follows a fight by a Labour and a Conservative MP on behalf of Mr Bertram Stevens who was exposed to mustard gas at Bari Harbour when an American ship, carrying the substance to counter any attempt by the enemy to start gas warfare, blew up and sank.

Mr Stevens, now aged 64, was on HMS Vulcan, a supply ship serving motor torpedo boats, when the ship went down and "vapour" came across the harbour and hit them. It was only in December that it was finally admitted that the substance was mustard gas.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced last night that Mr Stevens, who has received a war pension only since November 1983, would have it backdated to when his symptoms due to the Bari incident first showed themselves.

That is understood to be at

least as far back as the early 1960s and it was said last night that Mr Stevens can expect to receive a lump sum running into five figures.

Mr Fowler added that the cases of the 600 or so other casualties who were contaminated by mustard gas in the bombing would have their cases investigated to see whether similar action was appropriate.

Dr Oonagh McDonald, Labour MP for Thurrock, said last night she was absolutely delighted: "I am not only pleased for Mr Stevens but also hope that the other 600 men who were on board that

## Doubt cast by Reagan on summit

Washington (Reuters) -

President Reagan was quoted as saying yesterday that he would call off a planned trip to Moscow next year unless the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, came to the United States for a summit meeting this year. Mr Reagan's statement was made at a breakfast meeting with a selected group of reporters.

"I've got news for them," Mr Reagan was reported to have said. "There won't be a summit in Moscow" if Mr Gorbachev does not come to the United States this year.

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## Fowler sacks Labour health chief pursuing Tory policy

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A health authority chairman who was effectively forced out of the Labour Party for pursuing government policies on the health service has been told by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, that his appointment is not to be renewed.

Mr Sam Dougherty, chairman of Wandsworth health authority, has also not been reappointed in spite of wishing to continue, after he spoke out about the financial difficulties his district was facing.

The effective dismissals come amid fears by health authority chairmen and officers that health ministers are trying to replace chairmen who have fought publicly for more resources with "safe Conservative hands".

They believe that the Government wants to stop health authorities "rocking the boat" about NHS cuts as the general election approaches.

Wandsworth, as a losing inner-city district, has had its share of disagreements over resources, and ministers are understood to be reluctant to renew the appointments of at least two other inner-city chairmen in London whose authorities have resisted cuts.

## Attacks on NCB over pay and closures

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The National Coal Board found itself under attack yesterday by pit managers worried about needless colliery closures, and by the breakaway miners' union which is to take legal action over wage-rise anomalies.

The British Association of Colliery Management, in a highly critical written submission to the Commons Energy Select Committee, attacked the board's "fetish" with market forces, which it said was against the long-term interests of the industry and the economy.

The association, which represents 14,000 middle and senior coal industry managers, said that it did not disagree with the board's desire to eliminate government subsidy. But if the strategy was implemented too literally, "the effect will be to unjustifiably increase the rate of closure".

"We are concerned that the board's new strategy is deficient in a number of respects and that it reflects an essentially reactive and short-term response to the industry's problems", the association said.

The strategy meant that surplus capacity could be eliminated, even if it was economic, because of market availability.

The pit managers recommended that the maximum use of coal should be encouraged, particularly in the public sector and by the British Steel Corporation. Coal imports should be discouraged.

The disclosure that the Union of Democratic Mineworkers is taking action against the board's refusal to pay some members an agreed wage rise was made by Mr Roy Link, its general secretary, who said that large proportions of its management did not want to recognize the new union and tried to pretend it didn't exist.

He told the Commons Energy Select Committee that the NCB recognized the UDM in areas where the union had more than half the miners as members. But in other regions, even where there was a substantial minority of UDM members, the board would not recognize the union or pay them an agreed wage rise.

Mr Link told the MPs that the NCB was not paying over the extra cash because they did not want to.

The pay increase of £5.50p a week plus a shift bonus was accepted by leaders of the UDM last November. It has been paid to miners in Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire where the union has a large membership, but with certain exceptions has not been paid to members elsewhere.

The NCB confirmed last night that it had received a writ from Mr Link's union.

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

## Teachers' pay panel sets date

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The three men appointed by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to look at the long-term problems of teachers' pay and conditions begin their deliberations tomorrow.

The panel is due to meet the teachers' unions and local authority employers for the first time in the afternoon. The panel's remit is to provide a pay settlement in line with the conditions of service negotiated by the unions.

The five teaching unions which signed the pay settlement on Monday are hoping that the talks, scheduled to take six months, will bring the big salary increase they have been demanding. The employers for their part hope that they will decide once and for all what teachers are required to do contractually.

The biggest teaching union, the National Union of Teachers, which is not a party to the settlement, has been invited by Acas to take part in the talks informally, and it is expected to accept.

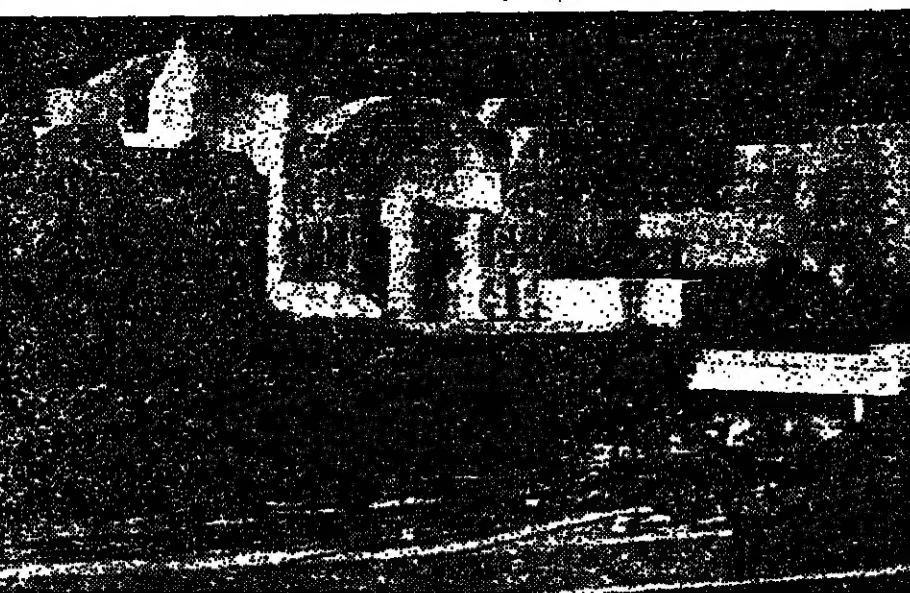
At present the ombudsman, or Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, can investigate things done on behalf of the Lord Chancellor's Department or the Home Office, provided the aggrieved person cannot take the matter to court.

But he cannot investigate things done by or on behalf of judges.

Several members of the committee were concerned that there is no way someone can complain about a judicial decision, although they can complain about one by a court official.

Many complaints concerned the behaviour of judges and a majority on the committee felt that, as misbehaviour in the public service amounted to maladministration, one remedy was to extend the jurisdiction of the ombudsman.

But a minority group was concerned that such a proposal would pose a threat to the independence of the judiciary.



The proposed development with the Hungerford footbridge (right) seen from the river.

## Charing Cross facelift

By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

Plans for a £100 million development and urban renewal scheme at Charing Cross station, London, were unveiled yesterday by Mr Terry Farrell, the architect, on behalf of Greycoat Group and British Railways Board.

The scheme, called the Charing Cross Centre, is being submitted to Westminster City Council for planning permission this week. It covers several acres between the Strand and the River Thames Embankment point.

Air rights have been granted by British Rail for offices over the station concourse. They will have a vaulted roof similar to the original one, which preceded the supposedly temporary flat roof built in 1905.

The Hungerford pedestrian bridge over the river will be linked to the concourse, and covered escalators will connect it to Villiers Street, to the east.

Embankment Gardens will be opened and the bandstand moved, and a multiplex theatre is proposed at the York Watergate arch.



Mr Farrell (left), with Mr Geoffrey Wilson of Greycoat.

The officers, with new buildings on Villiers Street, will total 430,000 sq ft, and run the length of the station, behind the listed hotel by Barry. Work already being done on the station will be accelerated, but not as part of the scheme.

## Armstrong on the defensive over leak

By Stephen Goodwin, Political Staff

Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, was involved in angry exchanges before a Commons select committee yesterday.

He again defended the role of senior Civil Servants in the leak of the Solicitor General's letter during the Westland affair.

He told the MPs that officials at 10 Downing Street and the Department of Trade and Industry had paid "a considerable price" in terms of anxiety and public exposure.

But although Sir Robert regretted their failure to recognize the sensitivity of the critical letter to Mr Michael Heseltine, then Secretary of State for Defence, he did not think it warranted disciplinary proceedings.

At one moment during his cross-examination Sir Robert was told by Dr John Gilbert, Labour MP for Dudley East, that he was surrounded by "a sea of outrage".

It was the Cabinet Secretary's second appearance before the defence committee.

Sir Robert conducted the inquiry into the leak of Sir Patrick Mayne's letter on January 6, but has steadfastly refused to name the top officials involved.

Members of the committee had no such qualms, constantly referring to Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, Mr Charles Powell, a private secretary in his office at No 10, and Miss Colette Rowe, head of information at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Sir Robert condemned Dr Gilbert's description of events as "grossly unfair".

He said that the officials concerned all had the authority of a minister (Mr Brittan) who had accepted full responsibility for "the fact and form" of the disclosure. He had never considered resigning himself.

## Licence given to genetically fixed drug

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The first genetically engineered drug to receive a licence in Britain has been approved by the Committee for the Safety of Medicines.

The compound belongs to the family of interferons, the group of molecules which the body produces naturally during virus infections.

Permission was granted for the use of the substance called Wellferon specifically for the treatment of an uncommon condition known as hairy cell leukaemia.

The drug has undergone extensive trials by groups in London, Cambridge, Exeter, Portsmouth, and Maidstone who were working with Dr Daniel Catovsky of the Medical Research Council's Leukaemia Unit at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School.

At a meeting of the Royal Society in London last night the development of Wellferon was described from its laboratory discovery nearly thirty years ago to its refinement by the Wellcome Biotechnology, at Beckenham, in Kent, as an anti-cancer drug.

Interferon was the first antiviral agent discovered in research at the National Institute for Medical Research in north London, in 1957.

The Wellferon preparation has also been effective in eliminating warts that have resisted other treatments and as an additional aid in overcoming the problems of infection among patients undergoing organ transplants.

Herbage fails

Mr Alex Herbage, the international financier awaiting extradition proceedings to the United States on 46 million dollar fraud charges, yesterday lost a High Court bid to be released from Pentonville prison where he has been in custody since last October.

£2m for care

Caring organizations in Britain are getting nearly £2 million from the European Community's £18.3 million anti-poverty fund, it was announced in Brussels yesterday.

Honeyford job

The post held by Mr Ray Honeyford, who retired as head teacher of Drummond Middle School, Bradford, West Yorkshire, after a row, is to be re-advertised because no suitable candidates have applied.

Jail reopens

Winchester Prison reopens to visitors and resumes taking prisoners to courts today after being closed on Monday when two cases of meningitis were discovered among inmates.

Rail talks call

Rail union leaders have decided that British Rail's 5 per cent "final" pay offer is inadequate and they are to seek urgent talks on behalf of 120,000 rail workers.

Sweet warning

Police warned parents in Bristol yesterday to watch for fudge spiked with cannabis resin that might fall into children's hands after the sweet was found in a raid.

MP pulls out

Mr John Forrester, the Labour MP, has pulled out of the re-election battle for his Stoke-on-Trent North seat.

Correction

A headline on February 20 wrongly implied that the Commission for Racial Equality had declared unlawful an advertisement by Dwyer for the commission, which is still considering the advertisement.

Official Unionists have been alarmed at suggestions to picket the homes of those refusing to leave government appointed bodies running education and health.

In keeping with the different backgrounds and philosophies of the parties, the younger, brasher DUP members have accused the Official Unionists of lacking the stomach for a fight.

## Sergeant suspended by Yard

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter

A police sergeant was suspended yesterday by Scotland Yard officers investigating the case of five north London youths beaten up two years ago outside a furniture by officers from a district police van.

The officer, based at Hampstead, has been suspended "pending further inquiries".

The council of the BMA also reiterated its advice to doctors that they must maintain the girl's confidentiality even if they decide she is too immature to receive the pill or other contraceptive treatment.

Dr John Marks, BMA council chairman, said it was his view that doctors should keep the consultation confidential.

"The GMC's advice is that in those circumstances he may inform the parents of the consultation if he considers that is in the girl's best interests."

The GMC is planning to review its guidance on about treatment for under age girls. The Department of Health is expected to issue its new guidance today after last year's ruling by the Law Lords.

Meanwhile, doctors yesterday backed the right of patients to have access to their medical records, but with some reservations. Under the Data Protection Act, health ministers have to decide the extent to which patients should be allowed access to their medical records.

The BMA council proposed that patients should be given access to their records, subject to the discretion of their doctor, and if they are not satisfied with the information, they should have the right to seek access through an independent doctor of their choice who would look at the record for them.

In the last resort, patients could bring a court action to seek access to any information.

## Doctors urge Pill confidence

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The British Medical Association yesterday urged the General Medical Council to reconsider its advice to doctors to tell parents when a girl aged 'under 16' seeks contraceptive advice if they consider her too immature to understand the issues involved.

The council of the BMA also reiterated its advice to doctors that they must maintain the girl's confidentiality even if they decide she is too immature to receive the pill or other contraceptive treatment.

Dr John Marks, BMA council chairman, said it was his view that doctors should keep the consultation confidential.

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## Further Anglo-Irish talks Unionist alliance under strain

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Britain and the Irish Republic will hold a further session of the Anglo-Irish conference within two weeks in spite of demands from Unionists for the agreement's suspension.

The fourth full meeting of the joint ministerial conference, between Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Mr Peter Barry, the republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs, is expected to be held in Belfast, and signals the Government's determination to implement the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Although Unionist leaders appealed for a suspension of the deal, or "some of the mechanism", to allow negotiations on devolution to begin, both governments are committed to implementing the agreement.

There are growing indications that the Government is taking seriously the possibility of a change in the Unionist leadership after the violent day of action, which even moderate Unionists privately admit backfired disastrously.

The tactic ended the growing pressure that was being put upon Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, to be more conciliatory towards Unionists. While the role of the Royal Ulster Constabulary dampened SDLP enthusiasm to support the security forces.

Meanwhile, the uneasy alliance between Northern Ireland's two main Unionist parties is under growing strain which many suspect will lead to a split.

In spite of loud protestations of friendship, the Official Unionist Party is unhappy at finding itself locked in an embrace with the Democratic Unionists.

So far both parties and their leaders, Mr James Molyneux and the Rev Ian Paisley, have

## Global race to fight famine

By Paul Vallely

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to take part in a global marathon race in May. It will be run simultaneously in 55 different cities at the end of a week of fund-raising called Sport Aid.

Plans outlined yesterday could make it the biggest charitable event yet held.

The race, which is being organized jointly by Band Aid and the United Nations, seems likely to raise amounts similar to those collected after last year's Live Aid concert when 100 million dollars was contributed towards famine relief and development work in Africa.

It was launched yesterday by a team which included Bob Geldof of Band Aid, Mr James Grant, the executive director of the United Nations

Children's Fund, Sebastian Coe, the Olympic gold medalist, Bryan Robson, the captain of the England football team, and Bobby Charlton, the former England international.

Bob Geldof called for schools, clubs, offices and local authorities to organize parallel unofficial events to coincide with the official races which would be linked by television.

The week's sporting fixtures are expected to include appearances from most of the world's leading sportsmen.

Countries which have already confirmed their participation in the simultaneous race against time include Australia, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Tanzania, the US and most European countries.

Sport Aid will be inaugurated by an Ethiopian runner who will light a torch from the fire of an Ethiopian refugee camp and then run with it through 12 European capitals and arrive in New York on May 25 on the eve of the UN General Assembly's first special session on Africa.

Before the UN headquarters he will light the fire which, televised all over the world, will be the signal for the race to begin in each place, irrespective of the time of day or night.

In each city the course will be 10 kilometres long to symbolise the 10 years of effort needed to halve the child mortality rate in Africa.

Sport Aid is being co-ordinated through the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

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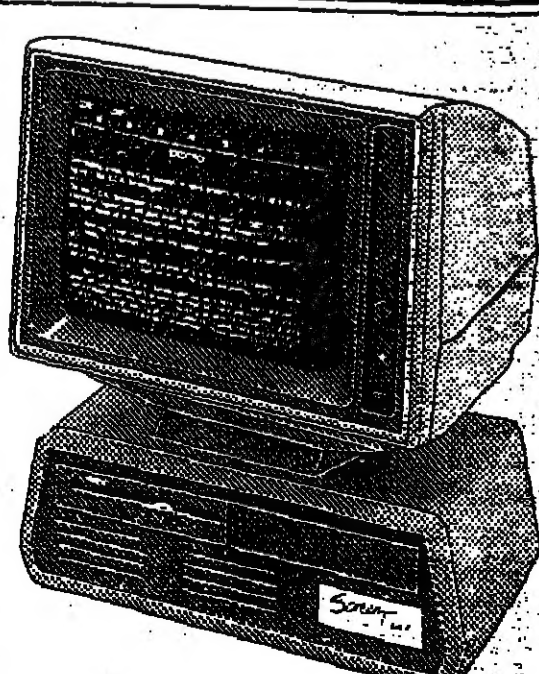


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Hospital write to woman dead 14 years



# Most people want law on smoking at work and in restaurants

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Smoke-free areas at work and in restaurants should be provided by law, according to a *Which?* survey published today.

Fifty-eight per cent of the 1,254 people surveyed believed that employers should have to provide smoke-free areas at work.

More than half the smokers in the survey and three-quarters of the non-smokers believed restaurants should also be legally required to have no-smoking areas, *Which?* says in its survey on attitudes to smoking.

The magazine says that apart from the cost of smoking - £20,000 over a lifetime for a typical smoker in their twenties - there is now an overwhelming consensus among

medical experts about the dangers of the habit.

Non-smokers do have some health grounds, apart from irritation and discomfort, for objecting to being exposed to other people's cigarette smoke, the magazine says.

There was now "considerable support" from both smokers and non-smokers for a ban on smoking in most public places.

Only in pubs did most smokers and a large minority of non-smokers feel that a ban was not a good idea.

*Which?* says there is still a controversy about the danger of breathing other people's cigarette smoke, but that a picture of the risks is beginning to emerge.

People who already suffer

from lung or heart disease can have their condition aggravated.

Second-hand cigarette smoke also was clearly irritating.

In *Which?*'s survey of 1,254 people in 1984 and a further 813 interviewed in 1985, two-thirds of non-smokers said they were sometimes irritated by second-hand smoke and even one in four smokers said they too found other people's smoke irritating at times.

Regular smokers cut five years off their life expectancy, and for those who start young and never give up the figure is 10 to 15 years.

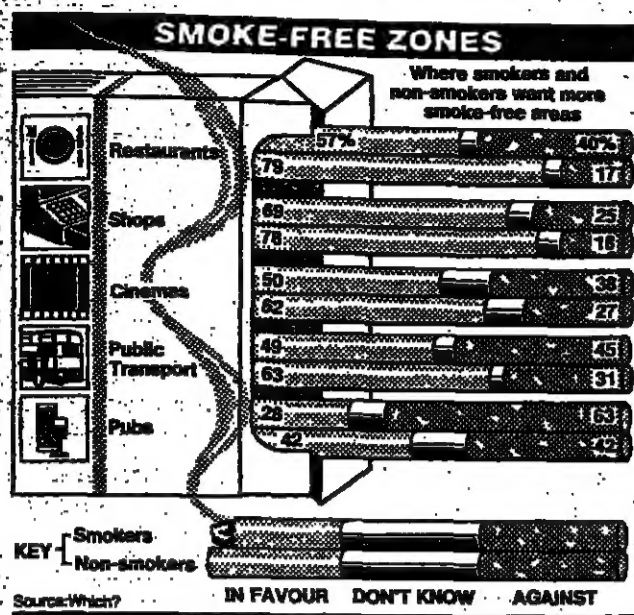
One in four regular smokers dies from the habit. Two of the remaining three have their health impaired; and a smoker aged between 35 and 60 is twice as likely to die within the next year as a non-smoker.

The survey found that three-quarters of adult smokers want to quit or cut down, only one in 50 smokers is glad they started, and three-quarters say they wish they never had.

But the Tobacco Advisory Council yesterday claimed there was no proof that the health of non-smokers was harmed by second-hand smoke.

Publishing its own assessment of the scientific evidence, it said that banning smoking in public places or at work "simply cannot be justified on health grounds".

Unions and management at John Player, the Nottingham-based tobacco company, yesterday attacked a smoking ban planned by city councillors because the firm provides work for 3,200 people.



## Lecturer doubted Satanist

Derry Mainwaring Knight, a self-confessed Satanist, claimed to a Christian training centre lecturer that a Roman Catholic cardinal was one of the top Satanists in Britain, a court heard yesterday.

The lecturer, the Rev. Michael Barling, told Maidstone Crown Court that Mr Knight alleged that Britain's devil worship organization was based in a building in London.

The wealthy Christians who gave money appointed Mr Barling and the Rev. Colin Urquhart to test if Mr Knight was genuine, the court heard.

Mr Barling was unhappy with Mr Knight's answers to two crucial questions in an interview in January 1985 about his commitment to becoming a Christian. Mr Barling said it was impossible to remain a member of a Satanic organization and also be a Christian.

He told the court: "Mr Knight described some aspects of Satanism in relation to its hierarchy and various church people, including a Roman Catholic cardinal, who were highly active in it and its various ceremonies."

Mr Knight "maintained there was a building in London that was the headquarters of the organization" and referred to a ring, chalice, sword and throne among regalia that had to be bought and destroyed to release him and thousands of others from the Devil's control.

Mr Knight, aged 47, of Dormans Land, Surrey, denies 19 charges of obtaining £203,850 by deception.

He has claimed he needed the money to buy Satanic regalia to free himself from the control of the Devil. But it is alleged that he spent it on high living, fast cars and women.

Mr Barling said Mr Knight became agitated when questioned about how he could be a Satanist and a committed Christian.

"He appeared to find it difficult. He stood up and said something like 'I have had enough of this' and walked out."

The trial continues today.

## Hospital write to woman dead 14 years

An investigation was promised yesterday into how a Doncaster hospital sent a letter to a woman, 14 years after she died, telling her no bed was yet available.

Her widow, Mrs Dennis Eyre of Bentley, South Yorkshire has demanded an apology.

Mrs Sylvia Eyre died from leukaemia in 1972, aged 39. She had been waiting for a bed at Doncaster Royal Infirmary when she was admitted at short notice and died.

Mr Eyre, a retired machine setter, said yesterday: "I was shocked when the letter came through the post. Time heals but this brought it all back."

A hospital spokesman said the letter would have been sent out as part of an annual check.

## Families get wreck libel cash

The families of the eight crewmen who died when the freighter *Union Star* sank off Land's End in December 1981, along with the *Penlee* lifeboat, are to share substantial High Court libel damages.

The tragedy also claimed the lives of the eight-man crew of the lifeboat, Solomon Browne.

Mr Richard Walker, counsel for *Union Star* (London), owners of the *Union Star*, told Mr Justice Boreham yesterday that many of the reports were speculative and inaccurate.

Mr Walker said that allegations in the *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Star*, *The Guardian*, the *Daily Express* and *Lloyd's List* were false and the six publications apologized separately.

They agreed to pay the unspecified damages and all legal costs.

Mr Walker said that *Union Star* Transport had requested that the damages should be given to a fund for the families of the *Union Star*'s crew.

## British set to get more time-saving gadgets

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

Home owners in Britain are prepared to buy plenty of time-saving electronic devices in the next 10 years, according to a survey completed by MORI for Philips, the European consumer electronics firm.

The study which coincides with the Ideal Home Exhibition in London, shows that microwave ovens, video recorders/disc players and cordless telephones will be commonplace within a decade.

Satellite television and flat screen televisions - which can be easily moved - will be standard equipment, the survey claims.

Consumers' expectations in 10 years

Product	Percentage
Satellite television	33
Flat screen television	32
Micro-wave ovens	47
Cordless telephones	30
Compact disc	22 (men), 15 (women)
Satellite television	22 (men), 15 (women)
Flat screen television	21 (men), 13 (women)
Automatic dish washer	24 - rises to one third among the 15-24 age group
Video disc	23
Video recorder	42 (because this is the only volume consumer product in homes the figure is adjusted. Video recorder penetration is expected to be about 75 per cent in a decade)

Source: MORI

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## Technical graduate shortfall

By Lucy Hodges

Education Correspondent

The market for graduates is booming but the number of students passing degree courses, including those in key disciplines such as electrical and electronic engineering, is falling, according to the Institute of Manpower Studies at Sussex University.

That means that companies will have difficulty recruiting graduates in key technological areas, the institute says.

The number of electrical/electronic engineers graduating will fall from a peak of 2,305 in 1984 to fewer than 2,000 this year. Engineering and technology graduates will fall from 8,694 to 7,889.

Mr Richard Pearson, the institute's associate director, said the Government's change of emphasis to engineering and technology subjects should boost supply by 25 per cent, but that could be undermined by a shortage of suitable students with A level mathematics and physics.

Seven women, aged between 15 and 33, were attacked in north and east London between March and May last year.

Five were approached from behind with a length of rope or flex and "pressure expertly applied sufficient to make the girls unconscious or semi-conscious and rendering them incapable of resisting his sexual advance".

Mr Michael Sayers, for the prosecution, told the jury.

Mr Bromwich, an apprentice print finisher, of Buxton Road, Upper Holloway, north London, denies attempting to choke women with intent to commit indecent assaults; malicious wounding; indecent assault and assault.

Mr Bromwich was caught by police when he was closing in on an eighth victim, Mr Sayers said. Officers found a length of cord in his pocket.

When his home was searched another short cord was found by his bedside.

Mr Sayers said that the attacks took place late at night or at the end of the working day. "In some cases violent injuries resulted".

One victim, a dance teacher, aged 24, was three and a half months pregnant. "She felt a sensation like an electric shock as she went to get into the lift of her block of flats and lost consciousness".

After the attack the top of her finger needed to be stitched back. "Four weeks later she miscarried. In medical opinion it could well be as a result of this attack", Mr Sayers said.

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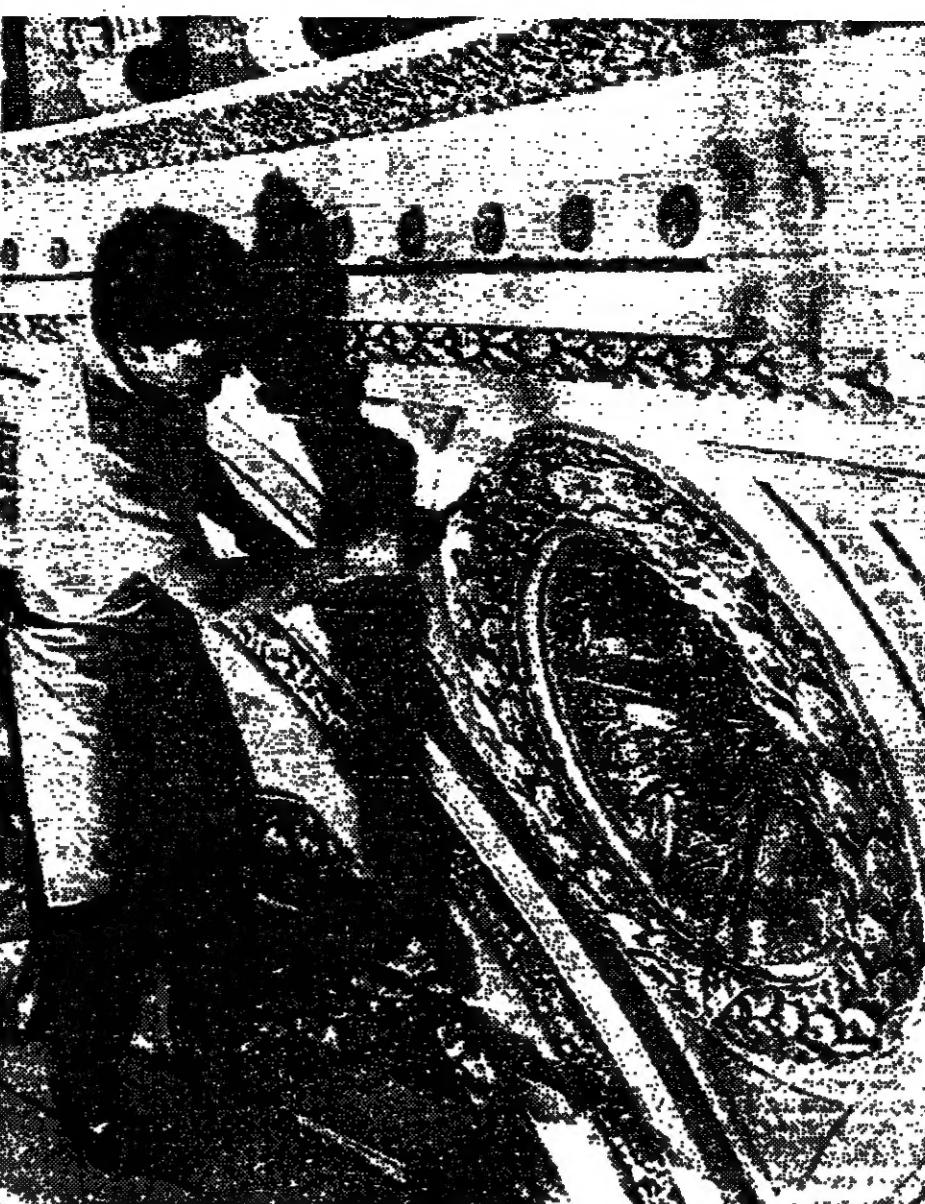
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Gary Napper putting gold leaf on the surround of a Reynolds bust during restoration work on the National Gallery's octagonal dome yesterday (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

## Nursing manpower

### Action call over 'shortage'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

There is significant scope for more efficient and effective deployment of nurses over the whole of the National Health Service, the Public Accounts Committee says in a paper published yesterday.

But at the same time it says that there is the prospect of a telling shortage of nurses in a few years and the Department of Health must "consider urgently what needs to be done".

The committee says it is worried by evidence from the Royal College of Nursing that changes in the age structure make it likely that there will be a significant fall shortly in the number of women aged 18 entering nursing.

At the same time 35 per cent

of those who enter nurse training fail to qualify.

The Department of Health confirms that there could be "trouble with the nursing supply" in two years' time.

While agreeing that nursing manpower is unevenly distributed, the department has no more idea now than it had 17 years ago whether the NHS employs too many or too few nurses, which it finds disturbing, the committee says.

The prospect of a future shortage of nurses is a most serious matter of direct importance to patients. We expect the DHSS to consider urgently what needs to be done, calling upon whatever expert advice is available.

The committee says there is

still significant scope for savings in nurse manpower by reducing shift overlaps, changing the mix of grades employed, and introducing five-day wards for minor surgery, which can cut costs without damaging patient care.

Evidence that one authority identified savings of £400,000 from five-day wards, and another found savings of £378,000 on an £11 million nursing budget by examining the mix of grades it employed, lends weight to the view that more effective management could improve efficiency without sacrificing the quality of patient care.

Control of Nursing Manpower (House of Commons Paper 98; Stationery Office: £4.40).

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## Child-bride case forces review of immigration laws

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Changes in the law were promised yesterday to prevent recurrence of a case in which a bride, aged 12, was brought to Britain by her husband.

Mr David Waddington, Minister of State at the Home Office, said in a radio interview that Home Office officials were working "right now" on the matter. The police have also begun an investigation.

Manchester City Council said yesterday that teachers at Levenshulme High School knew of her circumstances when she was enrolled, but were concerned only for her education.

The girl, Elham Bahrami, has been at the school since arriving in Manchester, where she lives with her husband, Mohsen Nikbakht, aged 27, a trainee pharmacist, in a flat in the Whalley Range area.

The council's education department said yesterday: "As she is not an illegal immigrant we have a duty to educate her. If any criminal act is taking place it is a matter for the police to investigate."

He confirmed that the school was aware of her circumstances and had sought the department's advice before registering her.

As MPs called for action, a spokesman for Greater Manchester Police said: "The matter has been brought to our attention and we are making immediate inquiries."

Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, and an anti-child sex campaigner, is to ask Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, and Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, why the girl was

allowed into Britain as a spouse.

Mr Nikbakht, a student at North Trafford College of Education, was quoted in *The Sun* yesterday as saying that he had shown his marriage certificate at the British Embassy in Tehran.

"They told me my case was unique and there was no law to cover the situation. The only problem was when we arrived at Heathrow and the immigration people interviewed us for an hour," he said.

The Home Office said yesterday that immigration rules allowed the wife of a man lawfully in Britain to be given leave to join him.

"Marriages are only recognized as valid here if they are valid under the law of the country in which they are contracted and the parties are domiciled there", a spokesman said. A person need not be residing in a country to be classified as domiciled there.

The case was not drawn to the attention of Home Office ministers until last Tuesday. The couple are said to have come to Britain 15 days after their marriage in January.

Questions to be tabled by Mr Dickens will ask the Attorney General whether he will initiate a prosecution of Mr Nikbakht for allegedly having intercourse with a girl aged under 16.

He will also ask Mr Hurd what his policy is on admitting child spouses to the United Kingdom, why Elham Bahrami was permitted to enter the UK as a spouse in spite of her age, and how many child spouses are known to have been allowed to enter the UK in each of the last five years.

## Bones kept under floor

A dental lecturer accused of murdering his adopted daughter told a court yesterday he had stored human bones under the floorboards of his home for three years.

He said he later transferred them into three plant pots. Mr Samson Perera, aged 43, of Stillwell Drive, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, said the bones were specimens he had brought from his native Sri Lanka.

At Leeds Crown Court, he

denies murdering his adopted daughter Nilanthe, aged 13. The prosecution alleges he hacked the girl's body into 105 pieces then hid them.

Detectives allegedly found human bones in pots at his home as well as in a coffee jar, tray and beaker at his Leeds University laboratory.

His wife Damini, aged 37, denies assisting him by impeding his arrest, and both deny obstructing the coroner. The trial continues.

## Arts Council gives grant increases

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council is to give many of its clients grant increases of around 4 per cent in the next financial year dispelling some of the gloom which has been expressed by companies during the past year.

Many feared that they would be unlikely to receive more than 2 or 3 per cent increases, though the increases announced yesterday will still not meet inflation.

The Royal Opera House, the council's biggest single client, will see its grant increased by 4 per cent to nearly £13.1 million. The Royal Shakespeare Company will also receive a 4 per cent rise taking it to £5.197 million, and similar increases

will go to regional arts associations.

Grants for the remaining two national companies, the National Theatre and the English National Opera, have not yet been announced.

Along with other companies in areas affected by the abolition of metropolitan authorities, their support is still under discussion by the Arts Council and the district councils which will takeover from the authorities next month.

The new grants make the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Sinfonietta the first orchestral company to receive more than £1 million in Arts Council subsidy. Its grant rises from £973,500 to £1,012,500.

## Lady in lake sex killers jailed for life

Two sex killers, identified by tiny flakes of paint on their clothes, were jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for the "lady in the lake" murder of Lisa Jerome, aged 25.

Gary Lombardo, aged 22, of Pathfield Road, Streatham, and Christopher Lillingham, aged 22, of Tulsehurst Road, West Norwood, both south London, were found guilty of the murder last April.

Lombardo was also sentenced to 15 years for rape and Lillingham to seven years for attempted rape.

Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, said Miss Jerome was seized from her flat at Tooting Bec Gardens, Streatham, and driven to Crystal Palace park where the pair helped each other in brutal rape attacks. Because Miss Jerome knew Lombardo they decided to murder her.

## Praying pair 'beheaded'

Two men were hacked to death with swords as they lay side by side reciting the Lord's Prayer in an east London restaurant, a jury at the Central Criminal Court heard yesterday.

They were killed on St Valentine's Day in 1984, but their bodies have never been found, Mr Allan Green, for the prosecution, said.



PARLIAMENT March 5 1986

Leyland bidders named

Cash for councils

# Ford plea for more talks rejected

## LEYLAND

There was no question of the reopening of talks with Ford about a possible takeover of Austin Rover. Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, made clear in the Commons. If there are any rumours about that (he went on) I disown and reject them.

He was replying to Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, who drew attention to a speech in Geneva on Tuesday in which Mr Bob Lutz, chairman of Ford of Europe, said that Ford was willing to restart talks about a possible takeover of Austin Rover.

Mr Smith demanded a crystal clear guarantee that throughout the lifetime of this Government there would be no talks by it or BL on its instructions with Ford about disposal of the Austin Rover group.

Mr Channon, in a statement on British Leyland, recalled that an invitation was extended to interested parties to declare by March 3 a firm intention to make a bid for one or more of the Land Rover, Freight Rover, Leyland Trucks and related businesses.

He reported that appropriate declarations had been made to BL's bankers by Schroder Ventures on behalf of some institutions and certain members of BL management in respect of Land Rover, Range Rover and Freight Rover, and by the respective of Land Rover and Range Rover, and by Aveling Barford in respect of Land Rover only.

General Motors had also confirmed their intention to make a bid for Land Rover, Range Rover, Freight Rover and Leyland Trucks.

The Laird Group and Aveling Barford were each in discussions with BL regarding the acquisition of Leyland Buses for which proposals on behalf of certain members of the management were also expected.

Discussions in relation to Leyland Buses were taking place over a slightly different timescale from those concerning other Land Rover-Leyland businesses. He would make a further statement to the House on these in due course.

Mr Channon continued: The BL board are giving careful consideration to all the proposals received on or before March 3 and I hope to have their recommendations shortly.

The board and the Government remain anxious to end the present uncertainty surrounding these businesses as soon as possible in the interests of the companies, management and workforce and their dealers and suppliers.

Announcing the forthcoming change in the chairmanship of BL, he said Sir Austin Bide's appointment as chairman was extended in late 1984 on the basis that he would continue as chairman until a convenient moment for his retirement was reached.

Sir Austin had agreed to remain as chairman until decisions had been made on the future of the main Land Rover-Leyland businesses. This would represent the start of a new phase in the development of BL.

Mr Channon said that on his nomination, the BL board proposed to invite Mr Graham Day, present chairman of British Shipbuilders, to join the board and become full-time chairman of BL at a date to be determined. He was appointing Mr Philip Hares, the present deputy chief executive and board member for finance of the corporation, to succeed Mr Day as chairman of BL.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, declared amid loud Labour cheers that as this tangled web became more confused and complex, it was clear the Government should never have departed from the concept of BL remaining an integrated and public sector operation.

He called on the minister to confirm that the Government approached General Motors in August 1984 and that for 18 months GM had been able to consider and negotiate their position while all other bidders had been given little more than 20 days.

Does not that indicate (he asked) that the Government is already predisposed to sell the lot to GM? What is the timescale? Is it correct, as widely rumoured, that the Government is imposing a timescale under which the whole operation has to be completed at the end of this month?

Given the fact that the only bidders for Leyland Trucks are GM, does not that put the Government in a hopeless situation whereby GM is able to say to the Government that it insists on acquiring Land Rover as a condition for acquiring Leyland Trucks as well? How could any sensible Government put itself into such a hopeless bargaining position?

After this asset stripping what would the chairman of BL be chairman of? Ought he not to be called chairman of Austin Rover?

Mr Channon said he was satisfied people had had adequate time to put in firm indications. They would consider them carefully on their merits and there was no question of the Government having made up its mind before that careful consideration had taken place.



Channon: Careful study of all bids

Mr Michael Grylls (North West Surrey, C) said BL was quite a desirable package and it was good to have several different bidders to choose from. But the Government was no longer a good owner because of the considerable sums of capital investment which would be needed to keep the organization in the international market. The Government would always have more pressing demands on the money and the jobs in the industry.

The sooner these firms were returned to the private sector the better it would be for the firms and workers. Mr Channon agreed. British Leyland was in a better state than it had been under Labour. Large sums of capital investment were required for some parts of BL for it to compete long term. The Government was trying to secure the long-term future of these industries and the jobs in them.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, said he spoke yesterday with management and shop stewards at Land Rover. What formal consultations (he asked) will there be with the 8,000 employees about their future before decisions are taken. While we all appreciate that in terms of making a fast buck, or of short term employment, the case for selling the whole thing to General Motors must be attractive to the Government, in terms of the long run in design, manufacturing and engineering capacity of this country it is worthwhile making a bit longer and trying to find job-based solutions for each division.

Mr Channon said Mr David Andrews, chairman of Land Rover-Leyland, had made clear that he was anxious for a quick solution because he felt it was damaging for the uncertainty to drag on.

I do not agree with Mr Steel (he said) that we should take a long time. We want to take a

reasonable period to consider the indications of interest.

Consultation with the workers was a matter for companies. They had said they were informing their workforce continually and would continue doing so. The Minister for Industry (Mr Peter Morrison) had received deputations from the workforces and the trade unions.

Mr Terence Davis (Birmingham, Hodge Hill, Lab) asked for confirmation that Freight Rover had consistently made a profit on the manufacture and sale of Sherpa vans, while General Motors was making a loss on its van operations in this country. Freight Rover was selling more vans than GM in Britain.

For GM to take over Freight Rover would be a loser taking over a winner.

Mr Channon said the situation at Land Rover UK Ltd in 1983, before interest and tax, was a loss of £146 million. In 1984 there was a small profit of £2.4 million. For the first half of 1985, before interest and tax, there was a profit of £5.7 million.

Taking certain considerations into account Freight Rover was more profitable than Land Rover.

Mr John M. Taylor (Solihull, C) said not only the biggest bid for Land Rover should be considered. Would all factors be taken into account?

Mr Channon: Yes, we are trying to seek the best long-term future for the companies and for jobs.

Mr Anthony Bevan (Birmingham, Workington, Lab) asked whether it was true that the chairman of Laird had written to the chairman of British Leyland saying that the only basis on which they would take over would be if the Workington and Lowestoft plants were closed and Farnborough was reduced and retained?

Will he rule out that option today? Will he give an assurance that, in the event of a management buy-out being submitted and being fully funded, it will be given maximum consideration by his department and that if it is not fully funded, it will be treated as a new corporate plan and as an option for Leyland Buses being retained in public ownership?

Mr Channon: We shall consider any properly funded management buy-out proposals for Leyland Buses. I understand that Laird have given a preliminary view to British Leyland of their proposals. Nothing final has been proposed and we shall consider the proposals on their merits and on the criterion of what is best for the long-term future of the company.

Mr Andrew Selby (Birmingham, Selby, C) said he was not preoccupied with a quick buck and a fast sell-out but with the long-term interests of our manufacturing companies. What British firms would be able to take over Leyland? Would there be any British industrialists who would have had the manufacturing experience (for chairmanship) instead of another person from across the Atlantic? There are good people in this country who have the confidence of West Midlands manufacturing companies. Why a chairman from overseas?

Mr Channon: I am surprised at his last point. Mr Day is today a British citizen who comes from Canada.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry, South East, Lab) said there is overwhelming opposition by trade unionists inside Leyland and among the working people of Coventry, the Midlands and elsewhere to the selling off to private profiteers whether American or British, of any part or of the whole of Leyland.

He also condemned the dismissal of two works convenors by British Leyland.

Mr Channon: With regret, I think I shall be unable to please Mr Nellist in the negotiation.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) Can he give an assurance that the Government would prefer a British solution?

Mr Channon: We want the solution which is in the best long-term interest.

# Recycled grant may cut rate demands

## LOCAL SPENDING

It was clear that the pool of grant to be recycled in 1986-87 was going to be some £500 million, Mrs Angela Rumbold, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a Commons statement. That meant the grant gains would be bigger than those illustrated in January and that authorities would get more grant than they had assumed.

She said the DOE had written to all authorities telling them the amount of extra grant they would receive from that amount of recycling, in addition to their grant entitlement under the RSG settlement announced in December.

Councils will now know (she said) the extent of their grant entitlement more clearly and this will allow them to make a lower call on their ratepayers. Where the rate making has not been completed, she hoped MPs would urge their local authorities to revise their rating plans. Rate increases should be no higher than absolutely necessary.

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab), for the Opposition: Does she expect that any shire authority which has set its rate will change that decision and if so by how much? Yesterday's announcement and today's rate increases are so much more than a cheap and highly misleading public relations stunt by ministers.

Mr Alan Roberts (Booth, Lab): I would have thought he would at least have the grace to welcome the announcement, simply because it gives local authorities a greater certainty. There is still time for shire counties to reconsider what their rate levels will be. In the light of this information we hope that those shire counties that take a pessimistic view will come back and reconsider the submissions they are making.

Mr Alan Roberts (Booth, Lab): The Government has come to the rescue of local authorities like Sefton, who had made a deficit budget and were set to do a Liverpool and break the law. This miseria amount will not make a significant difference.

Mrs Rumbold: As to the authorities proposing to make a higher rate than they had hoped to make, this announcement will make all the difference to what they do and has been greatly welcomed by those very authorities.

As a result of the decision made by the High Court to uphold the surcharge on Lambeth and Liverpool councils they could face disqualification in the middle of the local elections campaign in May, Mr John Fraser (Norwood, Lab) said in the Commons when unsuccessfully applying for an emergency debate on the subject.

# Sovereignty still not open for negotiation

## THE FALKLANDS

The British Government had taken step after step in an effort to establish more normal relations with Argentina but none of these steps had been met with a parallel response, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Commons.

He repeated the Government's refusal to negotiate on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and stressed the importance of the wishes of the islanders themselves.

Mr William McKelvey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun, Lab) said it was about time Britain re-established full diplomatic relations with Argentina and talked about sovereignty with a view to reaching an honourable settlement so that the cost of maintaining the Falklands could be reduced.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: He offers a misguided simple insight. We want to move towards more normal relations with Argentina. It was for that reason Mr Timothy Eggar, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, offered to meet the Argentinean parliamentarians when they were here.

He would have explained to them that while we are unprepared to negotiate sovereignty he was prepared to hear them state their position and make clear our wish to see more

normal relations. Towards that end we have taken step after step, none of which have been met by any parallel response from the other side.

Mr Alan Bell (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L): Many of us who met the Argentinean found them to be a constructive and courteous group of people. Their unwillingness to have a meeting with ministers was quite understandable because of the view that would have been taken of it in Argentina.

He is dealing with a democracy, not a dictatorship. When he was dealing with a dictatorship he was prepared to give away sovereignty. He should now be prepared at least to have it on the agenda.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: No. There were no strings whatsoever to the offer made to meet them to explain to them we will not negotiate sovereignty. We would have listened to their statement on that.

We welcomed the restoration of democracy in Argentina. We have taken steps to support the Argentine economy and to help that democracy. But it would be quite unhelpful to offer unrealistic goals on sovereignty.

Although democracy has returned, the rest makes a fundamental difference in the invasion of the islands. It is quite unreasonable to expect us to put the clock back before the invasion as if that had not happened.

# Majority too poor to buy shares

## HOUSE OF LORDS

The biggest obstacle in the way of the Government's belief in a free share ownership was that 60 per cent of the population had not got the money to buy them, Lord Bruce of Donington (Lab) said during question time in the House of Lords.

If the Government wants to ease the way of obtaining shares (he said) the easiest way of acquiring them is to have the money, then it is quite simple. But the majority of people do not have the resources because the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.

Lord Lucas of Chilworth, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, had said earlier in reply to a question on whether it would encourage the Stock Exchange to make share dealing easier for the individual: The Government believes in a property owning democracy in the widest sense.

# Need for look at law on charities

## HOUSE OF LORDS

All was not well with the operation of the law on charities and there was a case for the Government setting up a wide ranging royal commission to examine it, Lord Allen of Abbeydale (Ind) suggested when opening a debate on the subject in the House of Lords.

However, a commission would take a long time and his personal experience showed there was no guarantee the Government would even read the report when published. Charity law had been described as a morass into which no Government would lightly tread.

With their present resources, the Charity Commissioners could not do all they would like to do. He suggested the possibility of calling in outside managers to the Charity Commissioners to advise whether the available resources were being employed to the best advantage and to assess how extra resources might best be used.

# Howe welcome for move to lift emergency laws

## SOUTH AFRICA

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, welcomed in the Commons a question time President Botha's announced intention to lift South Africa's state of emergency. I hope (he said) that action will help ease the tension and assist the promotion of the dialogue which is so urgently needed.

Mr Robert Liberman (Manchester, Central, Lab): Has he seen the article in today's Guardian which states that the Prime Minister has personally blocked the Bermudan government from introducing limited sanctions against South Africa, even to the extent of importing Krugerrands which at present is being considered by her own Government? This smacks of double standards and a sop to apartheid.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: No. It smacks of precisely the opposite: the perfectly rational conclusion that the decision of this Government in relation to measures taken in respect of South Africa should be uniform not only in the United Kingdom but colonial territories.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry, South-East, Lab): Is not his attitude entirely ingenuitous at apartheid? With £11,000 million of British investment in South Africa his opposition to economic sanctions has more to do with the profits of British firms being made out of apartheid.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: If it were left to him to judge these matters it would be more likely to provoke the destruction of the British and South African economies. To the disadvantage of the people living in both countries. Our balanced policy of making

it plain that we wish to see apartheid brought quickly to an end and supporting that by policies and representations is far more likely to be effective. Sir Peter Blaker (Blackpool South, C): Many of those who call for a policy of serious economic sanctions have not thought through the implications.

Mr David Owen, Leader of the SDP: When will he make representations against the selective ban on television reporting, something many of us find unacceptable?

Has he made representations in relation to the decision to go ahead with United Nations supervised elections in Namibia in August, that they should not be linked to the withdrawal of Cuban forces?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: On the first point, we have already made representations expressing our regret. On his second point, we have welcomed the South African government's re-affirmation of its commitment to implement UN Security Council Resolution 435. If that were to be done it would offer an opportunity to make early progress and would reduce tension throughout the region.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs: Why has the ANC failed to do its undertaking at the Commonwealth summit to ban the import of Krugerrands, especially since the US Administration found no difficulty with GATT in banning Krugerrands? Has the ANC specifically even before the Commonwealth summit?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: We are not the only country which has found it necessary to consider the GATT implications on the sale of Krugerrands.

# Freeing of Mandela would help dialogue

## HOUSE OF LORDS

The unconditional release of Nelson Mandela would constitute a major act of national reconciliation in South Africa and could provide the impetus for genuine dialogue and a peaceful settlement of the conflict, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during Commons questions.

He was replying to Mr David Allen (Liverpool, Mersey, Hk), who asked him to take every opportunity to make clear to the South African government that the continuing incarceration of Mr Mandela was an affront to the blacks in that country. His release was a prerequisite to reconciliation between black and white. Britain should instruct its ambassador to visit Mr Mandela to establish the con-

dition of his health and well-being.

Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, C): The prerequisite to Mandela's release should be that he renounces violence. It is in the interests of Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, that he renounces violence while they perform their own acts of violence in South Africa and outside.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I cannot accept that. I join him in condemning violence from any quarter. Although the ANC is clearly an important force of black opinion in South Africa, we thought it right to establish official contact with the ANC specifically to stress our commitment to dialogue and impress on them the need to bring an end to all violence in South Africa.

# Bill aims to combat salmon poaching

## SALMON BILL

Angling was a multi-million pound industry, with salmon angling the most sought after and often most expensive part of the angling scene, Mr John MacKay, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, said when he successfully moved the second reading of the Salmon Bill in the Commons late on Tuesday night.

The Bill, which has passed the Lords, represents the first substantial proposals for salmon legislation for many years.

Its three main objectives are to modernise and improve administrative arrangements for salmon fishing in Scotland, streamline the arrangements for the regulation of salmon fisheries and the measures to combat salmon poaching.

Mr MacKay said there had been many efforts to quantify the value of salmon angling to Scotland. Figures had been put

variously at between £22 million and £140 million a year. If the true figure was somewhere in the middle that clearly indicated the importance of salmon angling to many parts of rural Scotland. Anglers would continue to come only if they felt they had a reasonable chance of catching fish, and that depended on how well salmon stocks were conserved.

One of the outcomes of rigorous scrutiny of the Bill in the Lords was the inclusion of powers which would enable the introduction of a dealer licensing scheme in England and Wales.

Poaching was no longer confined to small local operations but carried out on a large and well-organized commercial scale. The Bill's provisions would allow action to be taken against those involved with the sale of poached salmon and should have a significant effect on the level of poaching by making it more difficult to dispose of illegally caught fish.

The Bill provided for a situation where it would no longer be the case that someone could be in possession of salmon, believing or having reason to suspect that it had been illegally taken, and not be convicted. Hitherto this had been a major gap in the enforcement of salmon legislation.

The new provisions struck the right balance, and an essential one, between improving the prospects of convicting those involved in the illegal handling of salmon without introducing measures which could lead to the conviction of innocent people.

Dealer licensing would be a valuable complement to the new possession offences. It was the intention to have detailed schemes under subordinate legislation brought forward as soon as possible after the enactment of the Bill.

There had been much ill-informed comment about the role of water bailiffs in the dealer licensing scheme, includ-

ing the suggestion that they were to be given power to enter and search dwelling houses. There was no intention of extending the police power of entry and search under the 1982 Act to water bailiffs in the context of salmon dealer licensing.

The Bill committed the Government to a review, three years after enactment of the Bill, of the salmon net fisheries in the north-east of England and the Scottish east coast salmon fishery districts as far north as the river Ugie.

Mr John Home Robertson (East Lothian, Lab), for the Opposition, moved an amendment designed to give the Bill a second reading on the grounds that it would extend the powers and privileges of private proprietors of salmon fisheries without making adequate provision for anglers or for the wider public interest and that it was inappropriate and inadequate measure to deal with the urgent need to conserve salmon and other fish species and to protect

the environment of rivers and estuaries for the benefit of the whole nation's sporting, recreational and environmental interests.

He said it was amazing that it should be entrenching the powers of absentee landlords and foreign investors while doing practically nothing for local fishing interests. In presenting this Bill the Government had given itself an opportunity to bring Scottish fishery legislation into the 21st century. Instead it had opted to stay in the 19th century.

The concept of the private ownership of a wild fish that happens to be swimming in waters adjacent to someone's estate was pretty absurd. There was a need for a new type of river authority with genuine representation for all people with legitimate interests.

The amendment was rejected by 125 votes to 83 - Government majority 42.

The Bill was read a second time.

# Church unity

## Roman authorities in new move on Anglican Orders

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Roman Catholic Church announces today that it may soon be ready for an important step towards unity with the Anglican Church, depending on the outcome of the present stage of inter-church negotiations.

It would entail recognition in principle of the validity of Anglican Holy Orders and, therefore, accepting that Anglican priests were priests in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church.

Refusal of that recognition is one of the biggest problems in the relationship between the two churches, and has always been deeply resented in the Church of England.

Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, head of the Vatican's Secretariat for Christian Unity, has told the two chairmen of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission that this possibility would exist if both churches endorsed the two key doctrinal statements the commission has produced.

His carefully worded letter to the chairmen, the Bishop of Kensington, the Right Rev Mark Santer, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, the Right Rev

Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, is published today.

He urged their commission to pursue a joint study of the difficulties in the way of the mutual recognition of ministries.

Cardinal Willebrands states that agreement by the authorities of both churches on a common doctrine of priesthood and Eucharist (Holy Communion and Mass) would "change the context" in which the Roman Catholic Church approached the question of the validity of Anglican orders.

According to a judgement made by Pope Leo XIII in 1896, Anglican Holy Orders are "absolutely null and utterly void".

The Bull received a dignified but stinging rejoinder from the Archbishop of Canterbury and York at the time. Since then the Roman Catholic Church has refused officially to regard the Anglican Holy Communion as a valid celebration of the Eucharist.

This Anglican ordinal "might no longer retain" the elements judged wanting in 1896. Cardinal Willebrands states in his letter, if agreement was reached on the central doctrinal points.

The cardinal's letter is viewed as an encouragement to the Anglican-Roman Catholic unity process, at a time when it has been put under strain because of the ordination of women in the Anglican Communion. The joint commission of the two churches is also commencing a study of the women priests issue.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, is said to have suggested to the Pope that the churches should together set up a new study of the ordination of women.

The Roman Catholic response appears to be that this should be dealt with by the existing international commission, perhaps with additional experts joining it, and that the principle of ordaining women is not open for negotiation on the Roman side.

The commission would, therefore, limit its study of the matter to its effect on ecumenical relations, not whether women should be priests. The commission would try to decide whether the "obstacle" created by women priests on the Anglican side was surmountable, or decisive.

So far it does not appear that Dr Runcie's suggestion has been accepted.



A gallant act for the Princess of Wales as a man in the crowd kisses her hand during her visit to the Dr Barnardo's family day centre in Hull yesterday.

# BBC plans breakfast TV changes

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC is to relaunch its early morning programme *Breakfast Time* in October as part of plans for a daytime television service.

The programme, which won an audience lead over TV-am when the two were launched in 1983 but for the last year has come second in the ratings, will be given a "harder edge". It will concentrate more specifically on the day's news

and the development of running stories. Mr Peter Pagnamenta, BBC TV's head of current affairs, said yesterday.

*Breakfast Time* will be shortened slightly and its less topical features placed in the new daytime schedules which remain secret.

Frank Bough, the original presenter, is expected to front the relaunch programme. Selina Scott, the other presenter from its first days, is

due to leave it later this year. Mr Michael Grade, Controller of BBC1, said: "This is the first part of an exciting new all-day package of news, current affairs, information and entertainment which will be announced in detail later this year."

Current viewing figures for TV-am and *Breakfast Time* usually show the commercial station with a weekday peak audience of about 2.5 million and the BBC with about 1.5 million.

# Ship hire frauds hit owners

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Ship owners are losing millions of pounds through fraud and malpractice from charterers who hire ships then refuse to pay for them.

British owners have suffered badly and some have been driven out of business by bad debts.

The problem is international, however, with Japan, the US and Italy particularly trouble areas as depressed freight markets, in which ship owners are desperate for work, prove happy hunting grounds for charterers to engage a ship for moving their cargo, then refuse to pay the ship owner his proper costs.

The problem was described yesterday by Intercargo, the London-based association of world-wide ship owners, as "epidemic proportions".

Often the claims and counter-claims become so complicated that the ship owner concludes that the legal costs of fighting the case would be more than the eventual compensation. He settles for less to get anything at all.

Crooked charterers are often difficult to detect in brokers' lists. When detected as persistent offenders, they tend to vanish and reappear under another name.

# Scots fear Spanish fishermen

By George Hill

Spain's entry to the European Community is likely to create a need for greater fishery protection vigilance in British waters, the Commons Scottish Affairs Committee said yesterday.

Spain's accession reinforces the need for prompt replacement of an ageing fishery protection ship and for Scottish courts to impose heavier fines on offenders, a committee report says, quoting the Scottish fisheries department as alleging that Spanish vessels were "notorious law-breakers".

Irish and



## Philippines Communist leaders released as President keeps her promise

## Aquino frees four hardened killers

From Michael Hamlyn, Manila

Four hardened killers, leaders of a bitter Communist insurgency, were released last night by the new Government of Mrs Corason Aquino to fulfil her campaign promise that all political prisoners of the Marcos regime should be freed.

The four were each released into the custody of prominent citizens, including the President's mother-in-law, so that they would not "disappear" as soon as the freedom order was given.

Nevertheless, the instruction was the subject of what the President's spokesman, Mr René Saguisag, called "a vigorous exchange of views" between himself, a former human rights lawyer, and the minister who chairs the Commission for Good Government, on the one side, and the Minister of Defence, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, and the forces chief of staff, General Fidel Ramos, on the other.

The two on the military side said that the release of the detainees would increase the difficulties of dealing with communist insurgency, and that the armed forces would be discouraged because they

would not feel there was any further point in working for the capture of the rebels.

The civilian side insisted that the campaign promise was a pledge that must be redeemed, and that the release was the best way of dealing with insurgency. The insurgents had taken to the hills because of their unresolved grievances against the Marcos regime. Mr Saguisag said they had no quarrel with the new regime. "In 1965, when Mr Marcos took power, there were no rebels at all," he said. "However many there are now is entirely due to Mr Marcos's rule."

More than 500 detainees have been freed. Any remaining in jail have been convicted of some criminal charge, but even they will be freed soon, Mr Saguisag said, if it can be shown that their crimes have a political content.

The four released yesterday were Mr Jose Maria Sison, chairman of the central committee of the banned Communist Party; Mr Bernabe Buscayno, also known as Commander Dante, commander-in-chief of the communist-led New People's

Army; and Mr Alexander Biondo and Mr Ruben Alegre, respectively the head and a member of the special operations department of the NPA.

Immediately after release they were due to see the President to try to start the dialogue with the rebels Mrs Aquino has offered. She has also called for a six-month ceasefire.

The fact that not all of the NPA is happy with the new deal was indicated this week by a vicious attack on a police party by rebel forces in which 15 security men died. Other killings continue to be attributed to them — not always with justification.

But there are still huge arsenals of weapons in the hands of individual politicians, many of whom are former Marcos men. Before the events of February observers had noted an increase in the number of political scores being settled by gun-play after the election, as disappointed Marcos men evened the tally by killing their opponents. During the "people power" revolution that brought Mrs Aquino to power, when un-



Cardinal Sin of the Philippines, pictured on his arrival at the Filipino College in Rome yesterday. He is due to meet the Pope.

armed civilians confronted guns and tanks, the killings stopped.

However, the feeling now is that they will shortly start again, particularly since the new order is cutting away at the sources of power of the old by arbitrarily sacking provincial governors and municipal mayors. It is replacing them with school masters and lawyers, who mainly do not even belong to the Unido party of the Vice-President, Mr Salvador Laurel, who is a political

leader of a style that the old guard could recognize. Rather, they are members of the Philippine Democratic Party wing of the governing coalition, led by the Local Government Minister, Mr Aquilino Pimentel. Mr Pimentel is in some sense the Sir Keith Joseph of the new government — the chief theoretician and most single-minded executor of policies.

The extent of the arms being stored is indicated by those being seized from Marcos

leaders who have fled the country. Mr Eduardo Cojuangco, for example a kinsman of the former president, whose premises were raided at the weekend, was shown to have hidden a Japanese machine gun, a Thompson sub machine gun, a machine carbine, a rifle and 30 sniper rifles, four bullet-proof vests and ammunition.

And this society is not afraid to use guns in the defence of the most minor concerns. Yesterday

ample, it was reported that a company of soldiers stormed into a Quezon City police station with a machine gun and automatic rifles and released two colleagues who had been taken in for shooting at beer bottles floating in a hotel swimming pool.

On the same day one man killed another over the ownership of a pair of socks, and a robbery victim was shot dead in broad daylight in a busy part of the capital.

## Split in right may aid Nato vote

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Signs of a break in the ranks of Spain's opposition parties emerged yesterday which could help Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, to win next week's Nato referendum (1).

A conservative woman MP told Señor Manuel Fraga, the right-wing Opposition leader, that "the issue is too serious for party politics."

Defying party instructions to abstain, Señora Victoria Fernandez-España, publicly announced that she would be voting "Yes" alongside the Socialists for staying in the Atlantic Alliance.

She alone among the 106 MPs led by Señor Fraga cut through the Opposition's tactics aimed at using the referendum to inflict maximum political damage on Señor González.

Señor José Ardanza, Chief Minister of the Basque autonomous government and a leader of the small Basque Nationalist Party, said yesterday he would also vote "Yes". Señora Fernandez-España indicated yesterday that she would resign from Señor Fraga's party. "I could not carry on in a party which asks its 200,000 members to abstain", she said.

## Harare rethink on Mozambique war

From Jan Raath, Harare

Zimbabwe's Cabinet has met to consider its decision to assist the Government of Mozambique in its war against South African-backed guerrillas after a big military let-down.

It was revealed last week that a costly but successful assault on the Casa Banana headquarters of the Mozambique National Resistance by commandos of the Zimbabwe National Army, had been rendered futile by Mozambique troops. The troops, left to defend the headquarters, which was taken in September, fled in disarray in mid-February abandoning an extensive array of Zimbabwean weaponry in the face of a counter-offensive by some 400 guerrillas.

Journalists at Chimolite, the headquarters of the estimated 8,000 Zimbabwean forces in Mozambique, were told last week that the morale of the Mozambique troops at Casa Banana was extremely low

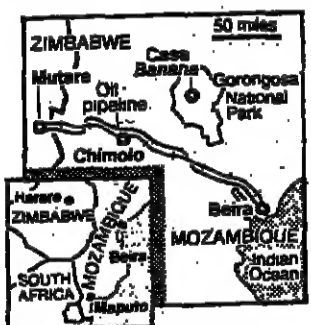
and that they had received no supplies for three weeks.

The loss of the headquarters has prompted Zimbabwe to rethink the Mozambique offensive. Mr Ernest Kadungure, the Minister of State for Defence, was to report to the Cabinet on incidents which military sources say underline the Mozambique Army's ineptitude as a fighting force and its complete lack of back-up to the Zimbabweans.

The description of the offensive against the guerrillas as a "joint operation" is evidently used solely for protocol purposes.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister who is also chairman of the Zimbabwe security forces' National Joint Operational Command, and the Minister of Defence, will have to decide whether to tell the government of Mr Samora Machel, which suffered acute distress during Zimbabwe's liberation war in its support for anti-Rhodesian guerrillas, that there is little sense in continuing to fight on its behalf.

Losses suffered by the joint forces on the present eight-month offensive have not been disclosed but they are not believed to be heavy, apart from the death in January of the highly respected commander of the Mozambique operation. However, diplomatic sources estimate the operation is costing possibly £450,000 a day.



## Tamil rebels kidnap village leaders

Colombo (Reuters) — Tamil separatist guerrillas have kidnapped about 100 village officials in Sri Lanka's northern city of Jaffna.

Residents said the officials, known as Grama Sevaks, were walking to Jaffna Fort, the military base, to meet the northern security force's commander when guerrillas forced them into vans and drove them away.

No reason was given for the abductions but the residents said the guerrillas, fighting for a separate state for Sri Lanka's minority Tamil community, opposed any dialogue between the officials, who were all Tamils, and the military authorities.

## Spectators die as rally car skids off road

Estoril (Reuters) — The opening run in the Portuguese Motor Rally was cancelled yesterday after two spectators were killed and about 30 injured when a car skidded into the crowd at a sharp bend.

The rally was to start again later in the day from the Estoril autodrome near Lisbon. Officials said the 95-mile opening section would be dropped and contestants would begin the second section of the first stage.

A woman aged 36 and her son aged nine were killed by the car driven by Joaquim Santos of Portugal. Police said spectators spilling on to the road had apparently caused Santos to lose control. He was unhurt.

## Spacecraft poised to probe comet's secrets

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Pictures received from Vega 1, the first of four spacecraft heading for Halley's Comet, are being analysed by Soviet scientists.

The photographs were scrutinized in gathering excitement in Russia and Western Europe as one of the most ambitious experiments in space astronomy approached its climax.

Vega 1 makes its fly-by of the comet today at a distance of 6,000 to 8,000 miles. Next Thursday the European Giotto craft, built by British Aerospace, will travel through the object's tail to relay pictures and measurements back to Earth from within 300 miles of the mysterious nucleus.

The Russians will obtain a second set of observations from Vega 2 on Saturday, on a flight planned to skirt the comet even more closely. That flight will have a companion — a Japanese craft which will

make observations as it passes within 60,000 miles.

Under an agreement between the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the European Space Agency for exchange of data, the two Vega craft are providing pathfinder information. Before Giotto makes its rendezvous at midnight on March 13, the first vehicles arriving this week should tell the European scientists more precisely when their craft will feel the shock of the comet and begin to encounter bombardment from particles.

The latest photographs show there are four tails trailing behind the comet. Only two had been seen before.

Astronomers are excited about the prospect of obtaining detailed analyses of the tails and nucleus as comets are believed to comprise the oldest undisturbed material of the solar system.

## What kept Britain going in the coldest month?



It is reported that the February which we've just endured was the second coldest this century.

The fact that Britain didn't freeze up and seize up was due in no small measure to British Gas.

Gas provides nearly sixty per cent of all the energy we use in our homes. That's three times more than any other fuel. And when the coldest weather comes, demand for gas can be up to five times

higher than in summer. Which is something British Gas has to be prepared for. And is.

With more and more people turning to gas (we've added over two and a half million customers in the last ten years), British Gas scientists and engineers have come up with some ingenious solutions to the problem of sudden, heavy demand in winter.

Many millions of pounds have been invested (from British Gas's own resources)

in massive storage projects: such as using a partially depleted North Sea gas field as a giant reservoir to store gas for winter use, and in creating large underground caverns in the salt strata of the Humber-side coast to act as huge gas holders.

These are just some of the ways in which British Gas uses its ingenuity and energy to keep Britain going in the coldest weather.

But then, energy is our business.

**British Gas**  
ENERGY IS OUR BUSINESS



Sweden prepares for Prime Minister's funeral

## Police work late on photofit of assassin

From Christopher Mossey, Stockholm

Stockholm police were working late into the night yesterday to build a picture of the face of the man who assassinated Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister.

They were working with what was claimed to be the world's most sophisticated photofit machine, flown in earlier yesterday from Weisbaden in West Germany. They hoped to build the picture from various descriptions and a sketch drawn by an artist with a memory for faces who had seen the fleeing man. A copy of the woman's sketch has been sent to West Germany for checking against pictures of local terrorists as suspicions hardened that the murder may have been carried out by the Red Army Faction, successors to the Baader Meinhof gang which blew up the West German embassy in Stockholm in 1975.

A second description being used to help build the photofit is that given by Mr Palme's son, Marien, aged 27, of a man in a cap who followed his father on the night of the murder.

Mr Claes Palme, a lawyer and brother to the dead Swedish leader, said Marien saw the man when he came out of the cinema where he and his parents had been watching a film.

The man wore a cap similar to that described by other witnesses as being worn by the assassin. He was staring into a shop window.

"Marien wasn't particularly surprised. He has, of course, seen the same sort of thing before. There were many people who became curious when they saw Olof and who followed him just to get a closer

look at him," the lawyer said. The getaway car used by the assassin is now thought to have been a blue Volkswagen Passat.

The owners of 20 such cars, with number plates similar to that noted by a taxi driver of a speeding car heading north from the central city area, have been interviewed by police. Another 10 are still to be located.

The getaway vehicle had stood with its engine running waiting for the assassin.

But with police still a long way from making an arrest, massive security was yesterday being arranged for Mr Palme's funeral.

Many world leaders and prominent statesmen are expected to attend a memorial service in Stockholm Town Hall on March 15, at which Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the next Swedish Prime Minister, will be the main speaker.

Afterwards Mr Palme's body will be carried in procession through the streets of Stockholm for burial in a churchyard a few hundred yards from the spot where he was cut down last Friday at the age of 59 by a single shot in the back.

Thousands of Swedes are expected to follow the coffin but the final burial in Adolf Fredrik's church—close to the grave of Mr Hjalmar Branting, Sweden's first socialist prime minister—will be a private affair attended only by Mr Palme's widow, Lisbet, aged 54, their three sons, other family and close friends.

Yesterday there were intense discussions between members of the Social Democratic Party elite, who are arranging the funeral, and

Sapo, the Swedish secret police, who are in charge of security.

Mr Bo Thresson, the party's secretary general, said one of the reasons why the burial had been scheduled so long after the assassination was that it enabled security to be carefully planned. Another was that it would enable Mr Carlsson to be officially sworn in before the ceremony.

He said security at both the Town Hall and along the route of the cortege would be extremely tight. Sources close to Sapo said sharpshooters would be stationed in flats and offices along the way. Extra police would be drafted into the capital and the route would be carefully checked in advance by explosives experts.

Finland's singing star Arja Sajonmaa will sing a tribute to Mr Palme during the public service.

The post-mortem on Mr Palme revealed that the assassin's bullet passed through his body between the shoulder blades, smashing his backbone, aorta and windpipe. It was later found on the pavement close to the spot where he died.

Those who have confirmed they will be attending the funeral include Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary General of the United Nations, and Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, who will speak at the Town Hall service.

Herr Fred Sinowatz, the Austrian Chancellor, will attend along with his predecessor Herr Bruno Kreisky, a close friend of Mr Palme after his years of exile in Sweden during the war.



Dr Waldheim answering questions on American television yesterday about his wartime career.

## Waldheim denies Holocaust role

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Dr Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1972 to 1982, told journalists in Vienna yesterday that allegations he had been involved with Nazi atrocities during the war were a "dirty campaign".

Dr Waldheim is hoping to be elected Austria's president in the forthcoming election. Until this week's accusations by the World Jewish Congress in New York, detailing his membership of the Nazi Party, opinion polls gave him the edge over his opponents.

Although he has now admitted suppressing information about his wartime career, he vehemently denies knowing anything about either the transportation of 42,830 Jews from Salonika to Auschwitz or the wiping out of several villages in Montenegro during reprisals for partisan attacks. According to the congress, Dr Waldheim served with units involved in the acts.

The fact that Dr Waldheim has consistently covered up his activities as a staff officer in the Wehrmacht during their Balkan offensive—he writes in his recent autobiography, *In the Eye of the Storm*, that he was a law student in Vienna at the time—has severely dented his image. Election posters have portrayed him as the benign, friendly Austrian "the world trusts".

Members of the Austrian opposition conservative People's Party, which is supporting Dr Waldheim's candidature, closed ranks behind him yesterday and said they continued to have full confidence in him as a suitable head of state.

Dr Alois Mock, leader of the opposition, described the evidence of the congress as a "monstrosity". The report in *The New York Times*, he observed, could not be said to be purely coincidental. Other conservative politicians referred to the reports as a "campaign of lies" and pointed to the fact that Austria's military records showed that Dr Waldheim's father had been stripped of his teaching

post when the Nazis took over Austria in 1938.

Dr Waldheim has said that his behaviour during this period was dictated by the need to defend his family from political harassment.

He denies even being aware of his membership of the paramilitary SA (Sturmabteilung) or "brownshirts", despite the documentary evidence of the World Jewish Congress.

After serving as a *corner* (ensign) in an Austrian dragoon regiment, Dr Waldheim joined a riding club in Vienna which, after 1938, was run by SA staff but whose members say Dr Waldheim's aides did not have to be part of that organization.

A spokesman for Dr Waldheim said yesterday that after Hitler took over Austria, anyone who had cavalry training and wanted to continue their studies had to continue riding in an organization run either by the SS or SA.

More damaging is the publication of this week of wartime photographs showing Dr Waldheim in the uniform of a Wehrmacht officer talking to General Artur Phleps, commander of the seventh SS volunteer division in Montenegro. According to the records of the Yugoslav war-time commission, this division was responsible for some of the most brutal reprisals against civilians.

Dr Waldheim has admitted that while serving in the Balkans he was presented by the Nazi puppet state of Croatia with the Order of the Crown of King Zvonimir with silver oak leaves, indicating that it was earned under enemy fire.

Dr Waldheim said that these decorations were given to all staff officers serving in the Balkans.

## Polish aid

Bangkok (Reuters)—Poland is to help restore and conserve the ancient Cambodian temple complex of Angkor Wat, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

## Kremlin economic expert presents radical blueprint

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Professor Abel Aganbegyan, a chief architect of Moscow's radical new 15-year economic programme, emerged from the Kremlin shadows yesterday to brief Western correspondents on the way in which it will change the face of the Soviet Union.

Among controversial experiments which he said would soon be expanded would be a new system of prices, self-financing factories and that can make investment decisions independent of the centralized planning mechanism; and a series of plans to link the take-home pay of various categories of Soviet worker directly to performance.

Professor Aganbegyan also expressed strong opposition to the present system whereby the prices of staple products, such as bread, milk and meat, are heavily subsidized. His remarks were seen as an indication that these might be removed soon.

The Armenian-born economist was transferred to Moscow recently from a Siberian think-tank on Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's orders. He is regarded by diplomats as the single most influential economic thinker behind the Soviet leader's drive to modernize the country. He has rarely agreed to meet the foreign press.

He denied that the economic blueprint—approved unanimously yesterday by the 27th Communist Party Congress—would cause unemployment, although it states specifically that the jobs of 20 million manual workers will disappear by the turn of the century.

"It is true that a proportion of the 20 million, in fact about 5 million, will have to undergo a process of retraining in new skills," he said. "But we already have a whole system functioning to that end."

He claimed that most of those being made redundant were approaching retirement age in routine jobs, often on production lines. Improved secondary education meant that there was a shortage of Russians prepared to take on that kind of work.

He cited three socialist countries whose experience could be useful to Moscow: East Germany, Bulgaria and Hungary. The latter caused surprise since the tone of the congress has been very much against experiments smacking of private enterprise.

Professor Aganbegyan emphasized the need to "democratize" the unwieldy and ailing Soviet economy by giving more power to individual workers, collectives and fast-expanding regional experiments, where a form of profit-sharing provides an incentive for individuals to work harder and better.

This is in sharp contrast to the traditional working of the rigid Soviet economy, where wages are generally determined in advance by the national plan, and there are few, if any, material incentives for extra work.

Areas where this type of system might be introduced soon were taxi co-operatives, television, repairs, public services and small retail outlets. "I believe that this has to be developed," he said.

The reforms were particularly far-reaching in agriculture, he said. All Soviet farms would be free to dispose of food production, in excess of a quota set aside for the state, in any way they chose.

● Congress climax: The congress reaches its climax today when the new Central Committee is announced. It will, in turn, select the Politburo to run the country for the next five years.

Senior Soviet sources said last night that the appointments would further consolidate the Mr Gorbachev's position.

Western observers predict a turnover of 50 per cent or more in the 319-member Central Committee. A number of senior officials already dismissed by Mr Gorbachev would automatically lose the membership of the elite body that went with their jobs.

The congress will also appoint a new Central Committee secretariat, another important centre of Soviet power, with between nine and 11 members.

## Last call at Port Stanley brewery

Port Stanley (Reuters)—The only brewery in the Falklands has gone into liquidation because of lack of demand.

Mr Harry Milne, the director, said it was established soon after Britain reclaimed the islands after the 1982 Argentine invasion.

Lack of support from British servicemen, contractors and the general public caused the failure. At its peak, the brewery was producing 150 gallons of "Penguin beer" a week. "We couldn't break into the military market," the former manager, Mr Philip Middleton, said.

## Sirhan Sirhan acted alone

Los Angeles (Reuters)—Los Angeles police released a 1,500-page summary of their investigation into the 1968 murder of Senator Robert Kennedy in which they ruled out theories of a conspiracy.

The summary, released 17 years after the investigation was completed, concluded that Sirhan Sirhan acted alone.

## Pastures new

Peking (UPI)—Some 35,000 shepherds stranded by blizzards on mountain grazing grounds in China's remote north-western Qinghai Province have been rescued. Xinhuu News Agency said. At least a million cattle and sheep died in the blizzards.

## Heavy guard

Delhi (UPI)—A female elephant has been placed on guard duty outside a Hindu temple in Thanjavur, southern India, to protect a shop inside the shrine and the sheet of worshippers visiting the temple from thieves.

## Prisoner spree

Bethesda, Maryland (UPI)—Prisoners on a road gang in suburban Washington were caught going "over the fence" to burglar homes and to meet girlfriends for lunch.

## Refugee shot

Torup, Denmark (Reuters)—A Danish policeman shot dead a Lebanese refugee who barricaded himself in a room at a centre for people seeking asylum after reportedly attempting to commit suicide and lunging at other inmates with a knife.

## Mail mummy

Munich (Reuters)—An ancient Inca mummy was posted to the West German magazine *Bunte* in a cardboard box, along with a plea to ease poverty in Peru.

## Missile test

Paris (AP)—France successfully carried out the first long-range test firing of its submarine M4 missile with a new multiple nuclear warhead, the Defence Ministry said here.

## Card fraud

Milan (AFP)—Two men defrauded a bank of 400 million lire (£18,000) by filming customers using an automatic cash machine collecting the discarded advice notices and then transferring the information on to blank bank cards.

## Driver's rage

Cape Town (Reuters)—A South African motorist who bit off a traffic policeman's ear in a fit of rage was sentenced to 600 hours of periodic imprisonment and fined for negligent driving.

## Losing streak

Reno, Nevada (Reuters)—A US district judge rejected a \$10,000 (£5,600) damages suit brought by a former casino employee, Miss Nancy Mannikko, aged 37, who said she was denied promotion because she was not pretty enough.

## Shared luck

Seattle (UPI)—Philip Agne, aged 14, who is suffering from a heart defect, won half of Washington state's record \$8.5 million (£3.6 million) Lotto jackpot.

## Rock tragedy

Winter Park, Florida (UPI)—Richard Manuel, pianist for the rock group The Band, died in a motel bathroom hours after performing with the group.

## Guru arrested

Aghos Nicolas, Coptic (AP)—Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the Indian guru deported from the US in November, was arrested at a villa here. He is to be expelled, police said.

## Climber saved

Hood River, Oregon (UPI)—Mr David Schermer, aged 36, who lay with a broken leg for two days beside the body of his wife on Mount Hood after they fell 200ft down a glacier while climbing, was rescued by helicopter.

## Doubts on lifting Pretoria curbs

From Michael Horneby, Johannesburg

The announcement by President Botha that he intends to lift the state of emergency in force in parts of South Africa, probably from today, has left unanswered many key questions about how the Government proposes to handle internal security thereafter.

The Deputy Minister of Information, Mr Louis Nel, told *The Times* that the special restrictions on television and press coverage imposed on November 2 would lapse automatically with the ending of the emergency.

"There is only one way that we can maintain those restrictions and that is in terms of the emergency. It follows, therefore, that when the emergency is lifted, the restrictions will automatically fall away," Mr Nel said.

However, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, was reported by the political correspondent of *The Star* of Johannesburg, as saying that curbs on media coverage would not automatically be removed.

He was also reported to have said that the lifting of the emergency would not necessarily mean that people detained under its provisions would be released, nor that police and troops would immediately be withdrawn from black townships.

The press curbs imposed on November 2 prohibit the taking of any television or other films, or sound recordings, of unrest in those magisterial districts where the emergency is in force without the permission of the Commissioner of Police.

The restraints on writing journalists are less severe. They can still engage in on-the-spot reporting of unrest in emergency areas, but have to report to the local police officer in charge.

Legally, these particular restrictions will have to lapse with the ending of the emergency.

These are the powers to which Mr Le Grange appears to be referring. It thus remains to be seen how the police will use them after the emergency is ended. On the face of it, however, television coverage of unrest should become easier.

There is a similar haziness about the future of the estimated 330 people who are still being detained under the emergency provisions. Over the whole period since the emergency was imposed on July 21 of last year, about 7,800 people have at some time been detained.

A senior police officer in Pretoria, Colonel Jaap Venter, said that although the 330 could no longer be held under the emergency law once it was lifted, they could be re-arrested and held under other permanent security legislation.

The general reaction to the President's announcement has been reasonably favourable from white liberal groups and the business community, although there is concern about Mr Botha's reference to possible stiffening of other laws to enable the police to combat unrest.

Black political organizations have on the whole reacted with scepticism, if not indifference. They say that the lifting of the emergency will have no meaning unless all troops and police are removed from the townships and all detainees and political prisoners are released.

Leading article, page 11

## Seized Britons named

Two more Britons were among hostages captured by UNITA rebels in north-eastern Angola at the weekend, it was learnt yesterday. The total number captured is now believed to be more than 170, by far the largest group of expatriates taken hostage there (Richard Dowden writes).

The two Britons, Mr John Sutherland, aged 42, and Mr Terence Richards, aged 44, are

## Top CIA official resigns

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr John McMahon, the Deputy Director of the CIA, has resigned amid reports that he strongly opposed CIA involvement in Nicaragua and the extension of covert operations in the Third World.

President Reagan quickly appointed Mr Robert Gates, the Deputy Director for Intelligence, to replace him.

Mr McMahon said that he was resigning for "personal reasons" after 34 years with the agency.

He said he had reached a stage when he had to move on, and he would leave on March 29.

Administration sources, however, said that he decided to quit after disagreement with a decision last week to step up paramilitary operations significantly. It is assumed that these were in countries where Mr Reagan had promised increased aid to insurgents—Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Angola and Cambodia.

Mr McMahon was known particularly to have questioned US involvement with anti-Communist guerrillas in Nicaragua and Afghanistan.

He opposed increased US involvement in the Third World because he believed it could not be sustained politically at home over a long period.

He wrote a classified memorandum to President Carter in 1980 arguing against covert support for Afghan rebels, and he has since taken a similar position over Nicaragua.

He recently lost an attempt to prevent Mr Reagan requesting an unprecedented \$70 million (£30 million) in military aid to strengthen the fighting potential of the Contras.

He is also said to oppose the growing role of the Pentagon in developing paramilitary capabilities for covert operations.

A proposal is now circulating in Congress to establish a \$500 million "freedom fighter" fund under the control of Mr Richard Perle, the Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Policy.

Mr Frank Conahan, the director of the General Accounting Office's international affairs division, said in testimony that the State Department's audit controls "cannot verify actual delivery or receipt of items in the field".

The office was unable to assure Congress of delivery when it approved \$27 million in aid last autumn.

Mr Conahan said \$7.1 million spent in Central America was not controlled. Payment was usually made to a Miami bank account, one of several brokers, but there was no audited record showing payment to suppliers or records of shipments to resistance forces.

Leading article, page 11

## No record of US aid to Contras

From Michael Binyon

Government auditors told the US Congress yesterday there were no real records showing that millions of dollars in aid to Nicaraguan rebels had actually been delivered.

Their report is likely to strengthen the opposition of many congressmen to President Reagan's proposal to give another \$100 million in military and other aid to the Contras.

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Leading article, page 11

## 'Mr Clean' crushes scandal

From Christopher Thomas, New York

The ever popular, ruthless and frequently obnoxious Mayor Edward Koch of New York has so far crushed every attempt by political opponents to exploit a deepening corruption scandal within his government.

He presents himself convincingly as a man pained and outraged by the worsening revelations. He has dumped in public an old-time friend, brandishing him a crook who should be exposed. "If a guy could be raped, that's the way I feel. A friend took advantage of me," he said.

The friend, Mr Donald Mannes, until recently President of the New York Borough of Queens, is implicated in the biggest scandal in the eight years of the Koch administration. Federal investigators are still digging into several aspects of New York's government, and as they do so the pace of resignations by public officials increases.

Mayor Koch is perceived as "squeaky clean" when it comes to fraud. Nobody has ever played a shady deal on him. In the midst of his crisis he is demonstrating what a political phenomenon he is. Hardly a New Yorker thinks he is corrupt, and no political opponent would dare suggest so.

The storm centres on the Parking Violations Bureau, which collects parking fines. It seems to have become a massive racketeering enterprise dealing in private profiteering off the city's business.

Federal investigators say that private collection companies have given hundreds of thousands of dollars to individuals within the bureau in return for lucrative contracts for the collection of millions of dollars in overdue fines.



Mayor Edward Koch: never touched by shady deals

Mr Geoffrey Lindenauer, a former deputy director of the bureau, has been accused of extorting more than \$410,000 (about £280,000) in cash, trips and theatre tickets from three private collection contractors. He has pleaded not guilty.

As for Mr Mannes, he has locked himself away at home after police found him careen-

ing through New York in his car, incoherent and dripping blood from self-inflicted knife wounds. He later had a heart attack.

Mayor Koch professes an intense distaste for political patronage. And yet the Parking Violations Bureau draws its top officials invariably from the Queens Democratic Party, which Mr Mannes led until his recent resignation. That, it seems, is how he came to have a hand in the alleged scandal.

One city collection company has claimed that he extorted \$36,000.

The affair is likely to spread to other city agencies using private companies to collect money. The FBI and the US Attorney's Office in Manhattan are conducting extensive inquiries and Mayor Koch, too, has appointed his own investigation into all city contracts with collection agencies.

Officials of the Department of Justice have little doubt that there is an intimate link between payoffs involving the Parking Violations Bureau and senior Queens Democratic Party officials.

With a touch of the old political magic, Mr Koch has proposed new rules to make it harder for politically-connected people to do business with the city. If anything, scandal is serving to reinforce his reputation as New York's Mr Clean.



## Japan ready to sell its rail network and hand over huge debts

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan has embarked on its most far-reaching reform since the war with the Cabinet approving the de-nationalization of the railways.

Japan National Railways has debts of £140 billion, almost the equivalent of the gross national product of Brazil.

Five Bills approved by the Cabinet, which provide for break-up of the railways into seven private companies, will go to the Diet this month and are assured of passage because of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's majority. They will become law on April 1 next year.

The government will dispose of the railway's debts, persuade 20,000 workers to retire early, find new jobs for another 41,000 and re-establish thousands in other areas of the country. The rail network will be broken up into six regional passenger railway companies and one freight

company. The government will retain existing bullet train lines for another 30 years.

The six passenger companies will be established in the northern island of Hokkaido, with individual ones for east and west Japan, central Japan and the islands of Shikoku and Kyushu. Although free to operate as private concerns, a provision has been made requiring the new companies to heed the interests of small regional businesses - the national railway met strong opposition when it tried to set up a bookshop on Tokyo station and a laundry in Saitama prefecture to absorb surplus labour.

To help overcome such built-in difficulties as the new Honshu-Hokkaido tunnel, which the Hokkaido company will be expected to take over, the government will allow the new private companies to engage in non-railway business.

De-nationalization will also split the 220,000-strong national railway workers' union which has been a mainstay of support for the communist and socialist parties. Recent attacks on the railway, including one that paralysed Tokyo's commuter trains for the best part of a day, have been motivated by opposition to the government's plans.

Three of the new companies will take over £42.8 billion of the railway's long-term debt while a liquidation company will dispose of the remaining £97.2 billion.

Japan National Railways has some valuable land assets it can sell but the taxpayer will probably have to foot the bill ultimately for what amounts to the country's biggest political pork barrel. For years, new lines have been opened and other uneconomic lines retained because it suited local politicians.

One of the most glaring "political lines" is the bullet train line from Tokyo to the home prefecture of Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former prime minister. It cost £6.6 billion when it was completed 3½ years ago at a time when the railway's problems had already become insoluble.

To begin the de-nationalization, shares in the new firms will be held by the government until operations are on a firm footing. Then, they will be sold to the public.

## Bare breasts protest on royal tour

From Stephen Taylor  
Sydney

The fashion in the Antipodes for baring parts of the anatomy to royalty found a new form of expression yesterday when a woman exposed her breasts to the Queen near the Sydney Opera House.

The latest incidents affecting the royal tour appear to be a form of attention-grabbing in the wake of the bottom-baring protests during last week's New Zealand visit. Three people have been arrested since the Queen arrived in Sydney on Tuesday; nine were held in New Zealand.

It was a sweltering hot day here yesterday, although that presumably had nothing to do with the woman's conduct as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh prepared to board a launch for a harbour cruise.

The woman, who was wearing a loose singlet, trousers and sandals, scaled a wall and bared her bosom. It is not clear whether the royal couple saw her.

She was arrested after a struggle with police and was insulted by members of the crowd with cries of "tart" and "hag" as she was led away. She was released on bail on charges of offensive behaviour and assaulting police and is to appear in court in two weeks.

She was reported as saying: "It was Queen Victoria who made women dress up to the neck. I'm trying to reverse the situation."

A pattern of incidents has clearly been established since the royal tour started 11 days ago with the egg which spatulated the Queen's coat in Auckland. Police have been told to be on the alert for further acts of exhibitionism during the remaining eight days of the visit.



A woman (top left) about to bare her breasts as the Queen walks by.

On Tuesday night, police arrested two young men who attempted to spray the royal party with water as the Queen arrived for a reception at a Sydney hotel.

A police spokesman said that a fire hose had been taken to the roof of an adjoining building and switched on.

The two men were charged with trespass and offensive behaviour.

Stadium opened: The Queen later opened a sports stadium in the Sydney suburb Parramatta (Reuter reports).

Together with the Duke of Edinburgh she dined with the

Victoria State Governor, Mr Davis McCaughey, and today they will attend a garden party and a pageant on Melbourne's Yarra River.

Before leaving for Melbourne on a Royal Australian Air Force jet, the Queen presented the RAAF with a new royal standard.

## Soviet hijacker jailed by China

From Mary Lee  
Peking

The hijacker of a Soviet civilian aircraft which landed in north-east China in December has been jailed for eight years, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

He said that the hijacker, Alimuradov Shamil Gadji-Ogly, co-pilot of an Antonov 24, was sentenced after a two-day trial which ended on Tuesday in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province.

The spokesman would not be drawn on questions concerning the extradition or motives of the hijacker, but said that Ogly could appeal against his sentence. The Soviet Embassy in Peking, which sent two officials to the trial, also refused comment.

The aircraft and 42 passengers and crew returned safely to the Soviet Union. East European sources said that the hijacking and China's decision to try the co-pilot was unlikely to affect Sino-Soviet relations, currently described as "cool".

Asked to comment on the recent foreign policy statement by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, calling for improved relations, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was a "reiteration" of Soviet policy towards China, the content of which is familiar to us.

He said that the dates of a visit by the Soviet First Deputy Premier, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, had not been fixed.

## Hong Kong fears poll down-played

Hong Kong (Reuter) - About 1.4 million voters go to the polls today amid concern that the British administration is playing down the election in the face of China's opposition to political reform before it takes over in 1997.

A quarter of the population is eligible to choose 27 of the 79 candidates to sit on two suburban councils.

Some legislators say the British colonial government, wary of upsetting Peking, has not promoted the poll as actively as it would have in the past and is backing away from reforms before Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

Mr Walter Suike, an urban councillor, said the poll would be the acid test for direct elections in future, something "Peking" has made clear they don't want.

Peking has hinted there could be deviations from the Sino-British accord, returning Hong Kong to China, but there would be a high degree of autonomy for 50 years. The warning was widely seen as aimed at last September's

indirect elections for the Legislative Council, the local legislature.

Legislators have confirmed that government officials appealed for a high turnout in previous polls but the issue was now sensitive.

One legislator, Mr Szeto Wah, said: "Perhaps the government is concerned China will not like the politicization and too much promotion of the elections".

Government spokesmen deny any soft-pedalling, saying they have pressed hard to get out the vote and have spent about £715,000 on election publicity.

Mr Donald Liao, secretary for district administration, said officials no longer needed to stress election basics because "people are getting more aware, more knowledgeable". But he added that a large turnout would not necessarily mean a surge of support for direct elections in future.

Mr Liao said the government would assess the election in shaping Hong Kong's political future but added it was only "one of many factors".

## Duarte is ready to see rebels

San Salvador (AP) - President Duarte says that El Salvador and Nicaragua should hold simultaneous, though separate, talks with their rebel movements because their conflicts affect all of Central America.

He said on Tuesday that his proposal would go to President Ortega of leftist-ruled Nicaragua through Foreign Ministry channels, and that he was ready to talk at any time.

President Duarte proposed that he should meet the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and its political arm, the Democratic Revolutionary Front, in El Salvador, and that President Ortega should in Nicaragua meet the United Nicaraguan Union and other Contra rebel groups trying to oust the Sandinista Government.

"I believe in Central America there is a co-mingling of effects," he said. "What happens in one country affects another."

"This is a plan of peace, not war," he said, adding that two rounds of talks he had with Salvadoran guerrillas in 1984 could not solve the Central American problem.

"Those talks were from a Salvadorean point of view," he said. "What I am proposing is from a Central American point of view." He called the proposal an alternative to the military approach now being taken.

Leftist guerrillas have been fighting US-backed governments in El Salvador for six years, and the Sandinistas have been confronted by the US, for four years.

President Ortega was in Cuba on a 10-day visit, and there was no immediate response from Nicaragua.

## General strike call in Dhaka

From Ahmed Fazl  
Dhaka

The 23 leading Bangladesh opposition parties have called for a half-day general strike on Saturday to protest against parliamentary elections on April 26 announced by the military Government.

The protest clashes with the arrival of China's President Li Xiannian and his wife, who are due in Dhaka on Saturday on a four-day state visit.

The strike, from dawn local time to noon, is expected to bring life to a standstill in Dhaka, the capital, and other big cities. Spokesmen for the opposition said that the strike would be peaceful, but warned that there would be picketing if the authorities tried to force vehicles on to the streets.

Opposition sources said that they have planned road-blocks to paralyse transport, and would halt train services and flights.

Chinese diplomatic sources here said that they are worried by the strike's consequences for President Li's visit, the first by any Chinese head of state to Bangladesh since its independence in 1971.

A government official said that President Li would arrive after the protest had ended, but would not say if timing had been changed to avoid pickets.

Mrs Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chief of the 15-party alliance, backed the strike call at a meeting with alliance members on Tuesday. "The protest strike will show to the world that the people have rejected the Army-supervised elections," Mrs Wazed said at her Awami League party office.

## Seoul petition started

Seoul (Reuter) - The South Korean dissident, Mr Kim Dae Jung, said yesterday that an opposition petition campaign for election reforms was expected to gather a million signatures by the end of the month.

More than 300 Protestant priests, lawyers, artists and dissidents have defied a government ban on the campaign and are urging direct presidential elections instead of by an electoral college.

A Roman Catholic civil rights group has said that it supports the opposition campaign. Hundreds of opposi-

tion members and dissidents, have signed the petition.

"Despite government efforts to prevent the signature campaign it is going ahead and we expect to collect a million by the end of this month and 10 million by August 15, National Independence Day," Mr Kim said. "It all depends on the government attitude but we expect to celebrate that day with a huge rally in Seoul."

Police yesterday forcibly took the civil rights campaigner, the Rev Moon Ik-hwan, home to prevent him from giving a news conference about the petition.

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## SPECTRUM

## Crescendo of cricket's steel band

THE TIMES  
PROFILE

## WEST INDIES FAST BOWLERS

The most awesome squad in modern sport is the quartet of West Indies fast bowlers. Operating in relays, granting no respite, hurling hard 54oz cricket balls at impossible angles at almost 100mph, they strike fear into the most lion-hearted of opposing batsmen, whose first thought must be survival.

Balfour Patterson, of Jamaica, is the latest of them. Reared on hard pitches that gleam like marble in the blinding sunlight, he joins the tree-top tall Joel Garner, the silken if ageing Michael Holding and Malcolm Marshall, whose standing as the fastest bowler in the world is already threatened by Patterson. Since the squad formula emerged, the Caribbean cricket conglomerate has demolished all comers and now seems about to repeat the 3-0 "blackwash" of England in 1984: the thrilling last-innings victory achieved by David Gower's team in Tuesday's limited-overs match in Trinidad has lifted the spirits but may turn out not to have much relevance to the altogether weightier matter of the second Test, which begins on the same ground tomorrow.

One way, perhaps, for the helmeted and padded batsmen of the present England team to compile anything approaching the total of 849 runs made by their predecessors in the Test match in Jamaica in 1929 would be to wear armour and aim for a target of 300 "leg byes" from the vicious bouncers of Messrs Marshall and Patterson. Against the sound of breaking bones currently echoing around the Caribbean, it borders on the unrealistic to remember that a 39-year-old Englishman once batted for 10 hours in Jamaica to score 325 in an England total of 849.

That was Andrew Sandham's achievement, though the West Indies attack he faced hardly resembled the modern bombardment. Sandham's 50-year-old opening partner, George Gunn, took advantage of Learie Constantine's absence to record his highest score of the series, 85. One of Gunn's many eccentricities had been to advance down the pitch to the fiery Constantine to play bouncers off the spine of the bat and deliver a nonchalant raspberry in the general direction of the bowler. Not recommended today.

If these dusty memories go a little way towards cheering up the despondent British cricket-lover, it is an incidental effect. They are primarily intended to pinpoint a time when West Indian fast bowling was respected but not unduly feared.

Three-and-a-half years after Sandham's epic innings, when the West Indies toured England in the immediate wake of the controversial "bodyline" series, Manny Martindale from Barbados bowled with ferocity, splitting Walter Hammond's chin. He pummelled the brave century-making Jardine with a sample of bodyline which swung English opinion and helped

outlaw the sinister leg-side fielding strategy, even if it could not stop excessive short-pitched bowling (only strong umpiring can do that).

When England next toured the West Indies in 1934-35, the captain, Bob Wyatt, had his jaw broken in four places by Martindale in Jamaica. Carried unconscious from the field, blood surging from his mouth, Wyatt came to in the dressing-room and, still unable to speak, gestured for some paper, upon which he scrawled a rearranged batting order. The pattern of West Indian Test cricket had been established.

There is no evidence that the hostility of black fast bowlers against the early touring teams was anything out of the ordinary. Native players like "Float" Woods from Trinidad had pace... when they were allowed to play. Black players were not always permitted to take the field. Cricket was run by the whites, who probably dreaded social embarrassment more than a bump on the head.

Woods was rated as one of the fastest bowlers in the world, but he liked to bowl in bare feet, to "feel de pitch wid de toe". It is suspected that he tore the soles from his cricket boots, leaving the uppers in position to keep himself, his captain and his hosts happy during the 1900 tour of England.

As the 20th century progressed, the restraints upon black cricketers — the fast bowler in particular — were gradually eased. The theory that black men were fast-bowling workhorses rather than batsmen also needed reconsideration as George Headley, from the late 1920s, showed himself to be one of history's finest batsmen. He may still deserve precedence over Weekes, Worrell and Walcott — even Sobers and Richards.

Headley was poorly supported in the batting, but at least West Indies fielded small brigades of fast bowlers. On the 1923 tour of England they had George Francis and, though past his best, George John, who finished his follow-through like Lillie, almost under the nose of the startled batsman. The mercurial Constantine was joined later by Martindale and Leslie Hylton (so far the only Test cricketer to be hanged for murder: he delivered his own retribution on his erring wife).

Spells of blistering fast bowling from these men were common enough, but 200-odd bouncers and kickers in a day, like the present generation unleashes, would have been unacceptable.

The rugged Wyatt, however, is again the centre of the story. During the West Indians' 1928 visit to Edgbaston, he went out to bat for Warwickshire as Len Bates was carted off senseless after being hit on the head by Constantine. If the bowler was remorseful about what had just happened, he managed to contain it for the next two balls glanced off Wyatt's skull for four.



Crescent lightning: Patrick Patterson, West Indies' latest fast-bowling recruit, in action against England

There is a long-standing, explosively sensitive area here. If an Englishman is felled by an Australian bouncer, whatever the sense of outrage, it could not possibly have been a racially motivated assault — though it might be claimed that the blow was deliberate for more obscure reasons.

Do the West Indian pace men dish it out to their own during inter-island matches? Apparently they do. But West Indian batsmen tend to handle it better since they grow up on these pitches (though Vivian Richards' record against Barbados makes one think one century in 19 innings, average 25). Never, though, has there been such a concentration of life-threatening, lightning-fast bowling as we have seen from the West Indies over the past 10 years.

There was a time when West

Hall would bound in and grind Colin McDonald's rib-cage. The valiant Australian opener would buckle at the knees, clutch his chest as if clinging to his life's thread, and gasp for air. Then he would walk slowly back to his guard and face up again.

This was a stirring display of fortitude, a welcome part of the day's dramatic pageant. After a time, the spinners would come on and there would be a more cerebral, artistic kind of contest.

Today, however, the escalation from Hall to Marshall, Garner, Patterson, Holding and the rest has reached a murderous crescendo which shrieks remorselessly throughout the innings. The thrilling and permissively dangerous

one-to-one joust has been replaced by a protracted gang mugging.

West Indian supporters customarily dismiss criticism of the fast bowling overkill with cries of "squealers" or "what about Bodyline, and Tyson, and Lillie and Thomson?" If asked why they play their cricket in this unsavoury way, the only succinct and remotely decent answer can be: "Because it brings victory".

These are dubious retorts, since for every alleged offender from any other country in the past, at least one West Indian fast bowler can be recalled to match. The West Indian authorities cared enough about the humanities of the game to send Roy Gilchrist home from the 1958-59 tour of India and Pakistan when he insisted on spraying a continuous stream of bouncers and beamers.

THE PACEMAKERS														
1969	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83
Tests 40														
Wickets 109														
Average 33.27														
Vanburn Holder														
Andy Roberts														
Michael Holding														
Wayne Daniel														
Colin Croft														
Joel Garner														
Sylvester Clarke														
Malcolm Marshall														
Winston Davis														
Eddie Baptiste														
Milton Ramdin														
Courtney Walsh														
Patrick Patterson														

West Indies' strategy of deploying four fast bowlers simultaneously was first used consistently in the 1976 series in England, although this form of attack was initiated in the fourth Test match against India at Madras in January 1975. Its success is illustrated by West Indies' record from the first Test against England in 1976 to the first Test against England in 1986: played 74, won 34, drawn 34, lost 6. In only two of those defeats (both by Australia) did they have the four-pronged attack.

The chart indicates the career spans of the fast bowlers during that period, based on first and latest Test appearances.

Holder first played in June 1959 and Roberts in March 1964, and the figures given cover their whole careers. Holding, Daniel, Croft and Garner were unavailable between March 1970 and November 1979 because they were under contract to Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket.

He bowled his way to fame, fortune and a CBE. Umpire-barging Colin Croft from Guyana, who made a speciality of bowling round the wicket so that every ball had to be on the line of the batsman's body, picked up cash rewards from Lancashire, Kerry Packer's cricket circus, and a rebel South African tour. Croft's bowling action was the ugliest of them all, contrasting with the virile exuberance of Hall, the haunting "slow motion" deception of the giant Garner, and the poetic flow of the like quarter-miler Holding. The gross superfluity of fast bowling now tends to obscure aesthetic considerations.

Competition for a high place in West Indies cricket, with its instant recognition and material benefits, is at fever pitch; which perhaps explains why these bowlers seem to be bowling faster and with more frenzy than their predecessors. It may be too glib a theory that Afro-West Indian stock has physical advantages over the Caucasian and Asian competition, but the field of fast bowling, now that all the "shackles" — racial and social — have been removed, bears the mark of West Indian dominance based on force.

The white man, in his supposed traditional perfidy, can do nothing about it this time, even by amending the laws of the game. There are two kinds of Test cricket now: that which concerns West Indies and that which does not.

David Frith

David Frith is editor of Wisden Cricket Monthly and author of *The Fast Men*, a history of fast bowling.

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## Power struggle at Battersea

How a local community is losing its fight to stop a multi-million pound leisure complex

It now looks as though the defunct bulk of Battersea power station in south London will begin its new life as a £50 million leisure centre before the end of 1987. The Conservative-controlled Wandsworth council has just confirmed, by a majority of three votes, the earlier decision of its planning development committee to approve this ambitious but highly controversial project.

If the finished article resembles the artists' florid projections, the old building and its surroundings will find themselves transformed into a massive family playground — a 1980s hybrid of Disneyland,

Alton Towers and Tivoli Gardens.

The company responsible for the development is Battersea Leisure Limited, headed by John Broome, who is also the chairman and chief executive of Alton Towers. Before the appearance of Broome, a consortium led by the business consultant Sir David Roche had won the competition held by the Central Electricity Generating Board to find the most appropriate scheme for the power station's conversion when it was closed three years ago.

The panel of judges under the chairmanship of Lord Ezra



Riverside landmark: power station to pleasure garden

was swayed in favour of the theme park notion by the prospect of some 4,500 new jobs on the 32-acre site. Forty-seven public meetings and innumerable leaflets later the Battersea Leisure project, as it is locally dubbed, has become an issue which transcends the mere refitting of a splendid industrial cathedral. Its more militant opponents object to the fact that the design of the park is in the hands of the Texas-based Leisure And Recreation Concepts (LARC) — apply for this long-running saga, the headquarters are in Dallas. Hence the temptation to see the whole enterprise as foreign venture capitalism, whose end product will be of doubtful local benefit.

The debate also touches on two of the main preoccupations of the inner city — unemployment and traffic congestion.

For this reason, Battersea Leisure is at pains to project an image of provider of jobs, which is calculated to endear it to a borough with 17,000 unemployed. The company reckons that nearly 50 per cent or 2,000 of the workforce would be recruited locally, most of the jobs taken by

people at the younger end of the labour market.

Battersea Power Station Community Group, one of the main opposition voices, takes issue with these figures. It cites the 500-acre Thorpe Park with its full-time staff of just 60, and Chessington Zoo (65 acres, 80 employees) as evidence of Battersea Leisure's "unsubstantiated promises". The group also maintains that if there is indeed to be work for so many, it can only be sustained by an influx of visitors far in excess of the company's forecast.

## Intolerable burden on clogged streets

Last year Sir Frederick Snow and Partners, the company's traffic consultants, estimated that of the three to four million visitors a year expected at the complex during its first five years, about 65 per cent would travel by car with a further 25 per cent arriving by coach. Despite the developers' plan to provide parking spaces for several thousand cars, some residents fear that the traffic generated will put an intolerable burden on the area's narrow and already clogged streets.

Considerable importance is being attached to the establishment of a fixed rail link from Victoria station, and a shuttle bus service to be operated by Battersea Leisure. Although the planning application has gone through Wandsworth council, the authority has stipulated that certain demands be met — particularly those related to transport — before work goes ahead.

The Community Group would still like to see the premises used for small local industries, or recreation purposes, though it seems to have accepted the inevitability of the theme park. Tony Spalding, Battersea Leisure's public relations officer, is magnanimous in victory. "I suppose the trouble is that one tends to get polarized in these matters", he says. "Of course we were aware that the volume of traffic was bound to be increased by the park, and we went to great pains to have a proper survey carried out... I think it is very much to the credit of those who opposed the development that we have now rethought our original proposals on parking."

The building itself stands by the Thames, a rather reluctant symbol of change, its four famous chimneys stark and redundant against the skyline, shorn of those polluting smoke plumes which were at least a token of its usefulness. It is as high as a 22-storey building, and its mass is sufficient to swallow St Paul's Cathedral whole.

Like so much industrial construction in Britain its very development was as much beset by controversy as its refurbishment half a century later. Years before it was built, residents and politicians had emphatically declared their opposition. In a Lords debate shortly after planning permission was granted in November 1977, Lord Askwith reminded his fellow members that two decades previously a parliamentary committee had recommended that no generating station should be put up in Battersea as the area was already too industrialized.

Today there is a cavernous silence inside the place — one million square feet of it.

Battersea, of course, is no stranger to the idea of recreation centres, having played host for 30 years to the nearby, and also defunct, fun-fair in the Festival Gardens. In the new age of leisure, much of which is enforced by rising unemployment, tourism, and its related pursuits have become a growth industry, earning an annual sum of £36 million — 27 per cent of consumer spending, or 8 per cent of the national income. If and when the developers have their way, Battersea power station is poised to play its part in the new current of wealth generation. Whether this will improve the lot of those who live in its immense shadow remains to be seen.

Alan Franks



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## BOOKS

## Still bound to the hack's machine

First, the title, which is "not altogether facetious"; it refers to the second bank of the typewriter, Anthony Burgess's instrument these 30 years. The good workman praises his tools, and is "scared of making the transition from clattering Qwert Yuiop to a 'velvety' word processor. With the clatterer 'the rest of the household knows that you are at work and does not suspect you of covertly devouring a *Playboy* centrefold'." Quite.

Some may find this on the pseudish side of self-indulgent. Yet Burgess is right to introduce this selection from his journalism by drawing attention to the typewriter by which he lives. He is famous as novelist and on television, and known to be a composer, but he is still bound to the hack's machine. "The rewards of the serious novelist are meagre, and he needs journalism to augment his insufficient earnings from art." What's more he enjoys it; bound to Qwert Yuiop, he is still a free man, as are all who take pleasure in their work. Reviewing keeps his mind fresh. It imposes "an admirable formal discipline." We have here about one third of his journalism in the given years. The standard is high. Freshness and discipline are two of the features. Burgess is never boring. There is not a piece here from which I have not derived entertainment and instruction. He can be extravagant in judgement, sometimes wild and wrong-headed, but never for long. In Johnson's words, the man has a bottom of good sense.

Johnsonian is a word too easily used. Nevertheless it can be applied to Burgess. He is both magisterial and lapidary: "Writers are rarely good at understanding their own work, let alone discussing on it." "Art begins with craft, and there is no art until craft has been mastered." "I shall be unhappy if *The Human Factor* is mentioned in the same breath as Mr le Carré's best-selling deadweights." "I never enjoy Shakespeare more than when schoolchildren perform him. Stage directors no longer defer; deference is left to the ignorant dead." Such observations, thrown out off the

Allan Massie on the collected pieces of our finest wordsmith, wit, writer, and novelist

HOMAGE TO QWERT YUIOP  
Selected Journalism  
1978-85  
By Anthony Burgess  
Hutchinson, £19.95

cuff, have an earned authority. They are the fruit of a mature and copiously-stored intelligence. I often think of him as Dr Burgess. This is not mere whimsy. Hugh McDermid, whom he considers perhaps the greatest modern poet, liked to be addressed, on formal occasions as Dr Grieve. The use of his honorary doctorate expressed his high regard for scholarship, which Burgess shares. It also tilted at the English affection of the gentlemanly scholar, prevalent at least till recently, in Oxford and Cambridge. Like Grieve, Burgess (Lancashire/Irish/cradle Catholic/University of Manchester) finds English amateurism limiting and provincial. Both take all knowledge as their province, and scorn the affectations of a backwater metropolis.

So Dr Burgess puts aspects of English culture in their proper place. He would set Virginia Woolf, for instance, "who thought she had superseded the Edwardians, in the very tradition she attacked." He has as little time for Bloomsbury, "the rich cream of Edwardian liberalism," as the Bloomsburians had for his beloved Joyce: "they did not like what they termed its coarseness, and they were not pleased either with Joyce's comic-epic glorification of the lower

middle class." He finds Forster overrated, and Ford's *The Good Soldier* conceivably the best British novel of the century.

He has the little vanities of a great man. It pleases him to write of his friendship with Sophia Loren (but who wouldn't be proud to be able to do so?), and of the "huge Gucci travelling satchel" Fellini gave me.

He has read *Don Quixote* three times; Budd Schulberg's *The Disenchanted* 20 times; Rupert Hart-Davis's life of Hugh Walpole 10 times; and *Les Misérables* in two nights and a day. He doesn't (I think) say here how often he has read *Finnegans Wake*, but I once heard him tell the story. He revels in words, though once rebuked by the Literary Editor of *The Times* for "a mindless bit of parrot jargon." (But that was on television.) I hesitate to tackle such a wordsmith, but I think he misuses "imocracy," and "cacotopia" is vile, suggesting a misdirected opposite of Utopia. Samuel Butler knew better. His sweeping judgements are sometimes too much. Do "all boys dream of copulating with the Fat Lady?" Here he writes of music, language, places, people, as well as literature; and it is abundantly good. Is he right, I wonder, in thinking that Waugh wrote too well for a novelist? He gives his reason: "a work of fiction should be, for its author, a journey into the unknown, and the prose should convey the difficulties of the journey." That's a sentence to set students to discuss. It is the work

of a man who has pondered his craft. "The novelist is a confidence trickster, while it is the task of the scholar to abhor treachery and teach scepticism." To which one might add that the novelist sets out to dispel unbelief: "A few years ago in the city of Y., in the province of X., there lived a man..."

For all his brio, he is fair. His favourite novel is *Ulysses* (there's a marvellous warm essay on Ellman's *Joyce*). Yet he points out its fault: "It evades the excruciating problem that most novelists set themselves: how, without blatant contrivance, to show character in the process of change." His summing-up is perfect: Joyce "reminds us that life is a divine comedy and that literature is a jocular and serious business."

Zest, intelligence, wit, and a short

way with nonsense are characteristic. Artists, who get no end of a kick out of the trade they practise, are always eager to say what hell it is. Quite. He agrees with Johnson that none but blockheads write except for money, but himself writes also for love and to celebrate. This invigorating and enriching book is one to buy, despite its price, not borrow. Meanwhile, Dr Burgess will be typing another review, and a novel, and probably an opera (score and libretto), a film script, and a book on language, while that third in the passage represents another parcel from the literary editor, which, after all these years and words, he will still tear open, eagerly. Bless him.



## The Jolly Roger of polemic

Readers familiar with Dr Scruton's political polemics may be surprised, but should be reassured, by the standard of erudition and argument that pervades this book. Described in the blurb as "an intellectual adventure", it covers an immense amount of ground, and is more illuminating in its asides and *apocrypha* than in offering cogent conclusions based on conceptual analysis; but if the conclusions are not always cogent, that is because he is bold enough to take on not only a wide variety of authors, but also almost every concept that has sexual connections (persons, desire, love, gender, perversion, marriage, jealousy, prostitution, obscenity, friendship, beauty...). An author who adopts this semi-encyclopaedic approach should not be judged solely, or even primarily, on his predictably conservative conclusions, which aim at the "restoration of the sacred" and avoiding the loss of innocence.

This richness is only an embarrassment to the reviewer. But there are two major methodological issues that the reader will want to consider. First, the author takes an Aristotelian rather than a Platonic approach to virtue and morality ("Virtue, like friendship, is

John Wilson

SEXUAL DESIRE  
By Roger Scruton  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.95,  
paperback £8.95

a disposition to intentional action"; he is concerned with what people do rather than with an unimodalized concept of their mental health. He is consequently unsympathetic to Freud and in particular to the Freudian unconscious, regarding Freud as a kind of failed scientist; and is insufficiently impressed by the fact that people have histories that continue to influence them. On any account these histories are mysterious, and somehow have to be probed if we are to understand how sexuality works: it is not merely a matter of social conditioning plus conscious choice. Some story has to be told, if not the stories of Freud or Melanie Klein. For a decent social life, Aristotle is an excellent guide: for something more the deeper insights of Plato and his followers may be needed.

Secondly, it is not entirely clear what Scruton regards as a conclusive argument in philosophy; his interesting discussion on method leaves this

open. Rightly stressing that the main problem is one of description, and placing himself among analytic philosophers, he nevertheless adopts an approach far removed from that of their most influential mentor, J.L. Austin, whose slogan "linguistic phenomenology" seems tailor-made for the purpose. There is in fact little close-knit discussion or dialectic of normal usage: one must assume that Scruton supposes there to be a comparatively little mileage in such discussion for the topics in question. That seems to me, though possible, a rash idea to hold in advance of actually trying it. The difficulty is that, if we abandon the conclusiveness of Austinian discussion, we are left only with certain intuitions described more or less persuasively.

This is fairly typical of much modern philosophy. Certainly what Scruton has written is interesting, lucid, perceptive, and to the point. Whether or not we agree with some, all, or none of it, his book should be read by anyone seriously concerned with the topics he investigates. It is a genuine work of philosophy; and an ounce of that is worth a ton of political ideology.

This author, I read recently, is "indignant when critics type him as a crime writer", because he sees himself in the tradition of Scott Fitzgerald rather than Raymond Chandler. "Yeah, yeah, yeah", as one of his characters, the DA from Bristol County, remarks, "Let's quit f--- around here and play a little golf."

As long as book pages divide their fiction into genres, this book and others like it will come under the Thriller heading at the top of this column. If Mr Higgins wants to be categorized differently, he should not introduce murder, sex, and a bottle of "acceptable" Cotes du Rhône in the Charter Club bar on the 36th floor of 200 Federal Street all within the first 25 pages. Let alone this oriental chick leaning back in the black leather chair, so that "her breasts became prominent against her white blouse."

As a thriller the book's OK. Respected late news anchorman on local TV loses wife and daughter to drunk driver. Driver gets mere two years in gaol. TV-man slays him with shotgun. DA is up for reelection; doesn't want car to come to court, not least because the TV-man has dirt on the DA and also half the fat cats around town. The setting, by the way, is contemporary Boston and Cape Cod, though frankly a sense of place is not Mr Higgins's strong suit. You need more than the odd reference to the Sagamore Rotary, cranberry juice, and fog to make the reader think he is somewhere other than the all-purpose USA you see in TV Soaps. Lunch, bed, or office, which Mr Higgins describes adequately and often, are the same everywhere.

The sense of Dallas-Dynasty is accentuated by the fact that practically everybody in the book is unpleasant, especially the rich, powerful, and corrupt. But, like TV-Soap, the book is easy to read; and, unlike TV-Soap, there is a lot of quite snappy dialogue. More dialogue than narrative it seems to me; and a lot of TV-anchorman to tape recorder.

All in all it's an adequate Beta Plus thriller in a respectable tradition. But sure as hell it ain't Scott Fitzgerald.

Nowhere, by Thomas Berger (Methuen, £8.95). I'm a sucker for a bad pun; so when Russell Wren is accosted on Twenty-Third Street by a derelict, who asks, "Will you buy my birthday for a pint of message?", I was half won over. By the time Russell has been bombed out of his apartment and hijacked on to Sebastian Royal Airlines, where the first thing the stewardess says is "Would you like to skewer the breasts?", I was fairly certain.

Wren, a playwright who can't get his third act together, has been making a modest living as a store detective in a Manhattan deli. Now he appears to have been assigned to the mid-European principality of San Sebastian as an undercover agent, disguised in a plaid jacket and polyester trousers of kelly green, turquoise, and magenta.

## It's Soap but is it Art?

THRILLERS

Tim Heald

IMPOSTERS

By George V. Higgins  
Andre Deutsch, £9.95

It is all immensely silly, of course; but also sprightly, and arch, and mercifully short. Some of the jokes are fearful: his fellow spook claims to have a disease so dire that it makes him not only seek drunk but also small drunk; the Prince is a pedast with a passion for ice cream; and a conch is put in a pillory with a sign round his neck saying I WAS RUDE. Books like this are a welcome antidote to reading another sort of thriller altogether.

First Loyalty, by Richard Lourie (Macmillan, £8.95). There is a grim topicality about a book that opens in a Soviet Labour camp, with two prisoners discussing imminent release, one to Leningrad, the other to exile. The second at least is no Shcharansky, for he is the creature of Anton Vinnitsky, head of SPETSDESINFORM. He is

not, comrade, what he seems. Meanwhile, in another part of the double world, Vanka-Vstankich has made a breakthrough and discovered that there are "chemical or endocrinological substances related to areas of unusual human activity—the longevity of certain Georgians." If the substances are what we think, then we can all live 40 per cent longer than usual.

The author is a Russian and Polish translator who apparently knows the Russian exile world in New York. As described here, this has the ring of truth. I'm afraid I was not, however, convinced by the plot, the shooty-bangs, and, least of all, by the elixir of life.

## Growing up today in the US of A

FICTION  
Gillian Greenwood

IN COUNTRY  
By Bobbie Ann Mason  
Chato & Windus, £9.95  
BURNING HOUSES  
By Andrew Harvey  
Cape, £9.30  
THE LIGHTSHIP  
By Siegfried Lenz  
Methuen, £8.95

Bobbie Ann Mason provides the latest offering from a talented and ever-expanding group of American women novelists whose gift lies in the encapsulation of American culture within the framework of family relationships. The variations on a theme are plenty, as each individual imagination invests the material with its own colours. *In Country* is Miss Mason's first novel. Her trademark is an attention to detail as she writes about the difficulties of a seventeen-year-old girl growing up in a small town in Kentucky. Her points of reference in the great American experience are pop songs and television.

Samantha Hughes is the daughter of a man who was killed in Vietnam before she was born. She lives with her mother's brother, a disturbed Vietnam veteran whose preoccupations are more in tune with Sam's than with those of his mature contemporaries. The novel looks at the girl's growing awareness of the confusing aftermath of Vietnam on American society. Small town life is recorded down to the last coke can and hamburger wrapper. The heat and emptiness are palpable. Sam's existence is an alienated one, despite the fact that she is living in the place she grew up in.

Miss Mason's novel lacks the skilful construction of some of her contemporaries' work (the leitmotiv of the television programme, M.A.S.H., for instance, is rather laboured), but nonetheless she achieves a remarkable final scene in the book, a mass mourning with a refreshing grain of optimism.

Andrew Harvey's novel, *Burning Houses*, could be from another planet for all the relation it bears to the details of small town America. Set in Paris, it is a very exotic creation, not much concerned with the outer world, and sometimes rather confusing. Charles, a man in his early thirties, has written an autobiographical novel about the ending of his love affair with a married man, Mark. The story of their last few days together is told as a novel within a novel, as Charles reads his work to an outrageously camp old film director, Adolphe ("the worst in the world after Ingmar Bergman" he says).

The best parts of the novel (and they are very good) are about the relationship between Charles and Adolphe, which emerges as that of disciple and guru. Adolphe is a brilliant piece of characteriza-

tion. When he is present, the novel dazzles and enthralls with rich imagery, wit, and a canny observation wrapped in high camp style. Everyone speaks in an aphoristic manner. The relationship between Mark and Charles is less successful and sinks into banality—though the author is one step ahead of this criticism, as is clear when Adolphe remarks: "Why is it that when we meet Wonderboy we always speak like Rita Hayworth? Can it be the banality of the movies, the banality of a great truth?" The answer to that is probably yes; but it doesn't make them great art.

An altogether different sort of moral confrontation is set up in *The Lightship* by Siegfried Lenz, a remarkable, spare psychological thriller, whose tensions, though deliberately understated, have an undermining quality that makes the novel extremely menacing.

The *Lightship* of the title is on its last watch. Freytag, the ship's captain, has brought his adolescent son with him on this final duty. Fred believes his father to be a coward; to have a shameful secret in his past. The crew pick up three strangers in a drifting boat, who come aboard the anchored ship to wait for a lift across the channel. A game of cat and mouse now begins as a strange relationship builds between Freytag and the enigmatic Caspari, the brains behind the criminal team (for that is what the three are). Freytag is forced to make a series of moral decisions which neither his crew nor his son understand. A three-way battle of wits ensues, conducted for the most part behind a layer of silence, the dialogue being brief but for the most part loaded.

Siegfried Lenz is a sixty-year-old German writer who, though popular and celebrated in his own country, is not much translated here. On the strength of this novel, it is a pity.

ff  
faber and faber

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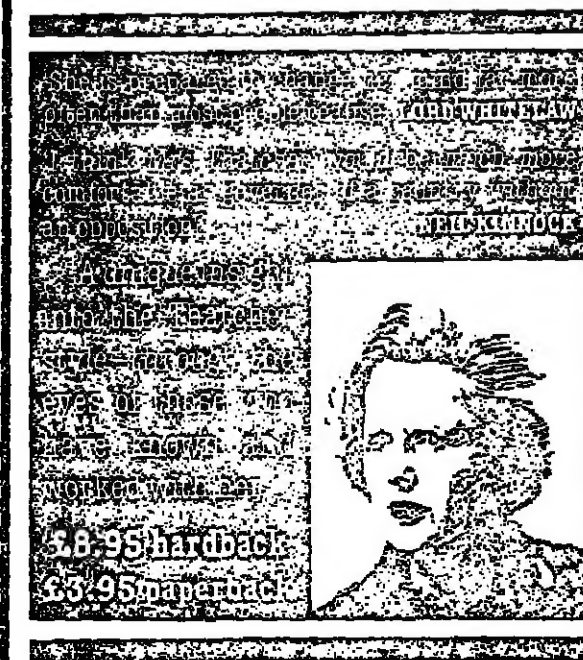
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## THE THATCHER PHENOMENON

HUGO YOUNG and ANNE SLOMAN



BBC



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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Ponting's new target

Does Clive Ponting know something we don't? He is about to start writing a book on Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, entitled *The Wilson Years*, just a year after being acquitted on official-secrets charges. Ponting plans to sell his *Islington* flat and move to the country to write his *magnus opus*, which he reckons will take two years. Yesterday Wilson told me he was unaware of the impending book. Ponting, whose insider book *Whitehall: Tragedy and Farce* is to be published this month, should find the Wilson years a rich field. In particular the top-secret Polaris improvement programme, later revealed to have cost a cool billion pounds, should satisfy Ponting's taste for controversies over official secrecy. And what's more, how will Lady Falkender shape up in the book?

### Balancing act

Michael Heseltine will not be amused to know that he has unwittingly made a contribution to CND. He took such a shine to a *Guardian* cartoon of himself that he gave cartoonist Peter Clarke £250 for the original. Clarke's wife, a veteran peace campaigner, blew her top when she heard and covertly removed the sum from their joint bank account and sent it to CND.

### Facing facts

Norman Howard, chairman of the GLC's historic buildings sub-committee, got a nasty jolt the other day when he ripped off February from his kitchen calendar. Illustrating March was a line drawing of St Mary-le-Strand Church, for whose restoration his committee has recently given thousands. The caption reads: "Built by coal owners to celebrate the return of the Tory government..."

### Still game

Tory MP John Carlisle will address the Monday Club at Oxford after all. A meeting at Oriel two weeks ago, at which he was to have spoken on South Africa, was called off when he was confronted by a crowd of demonstrators too thick for him to pass. It has now been rescheduled for next week, at a venue to be announced. It will be an all-ticket affair and the police are being kept informed of the arrangements. "This time we are determined the meeting will go ahead," says University Monday Club president Simon Clow.

BARRY FANTONI



"I suppose he's eager to get a knighthood"

### Never too late

We all know how late you can safely ring up a single man (11.30 pm), but what of Mrs Thatcher? Tory MP Peter Bottomley tells me that he was in Brussels during the Heysel Stadium disaster and dared to ring her at 1.30 a.m. A bobby was sent up to see if her bedroom light was on. It was. When Bottomley had at last given his news and Mrs T had asked him to "give my very best wishes to everyone in hospital", she broke off, then came back: "Oh! Denis says 'not to the villains'."

### Frocked

Has Rome stolen a march on Canterbury? In a letter asking for a character reference, the head of St Bernard's Roman Catholic school in High Wycombe says the applicant "has applied for the post of Home Economics Assistant (Part-time) at St Bernard's school and has given your name as a priest... to whom reference may be made confidentially." The addressee? Miss M Woolcott.

### UN-privileged

Lord Trefgarne, a government spokesman in the Lords, has confirmed my report that, unlike the USA, Britain is to withdraw United Nations privileges from visiting UN officials. Replying to questions about my report, he said international organizations could not "expect to enjoy full privileges and immunities in a state which is not a member". Unesco is being a bit more generous towards us. Its Paris HQ is honouring an undertaking to put up and entertain 75 British youngsters at a conference next week of the British Council for Education in World Citizenship. "Mr M'Bow [Unesco's head] may speak. It's pretty sporting of them," says the council's director, Margaret Quass.

PHS

# Tense time in the BA cockpit

Duncan Campbell-Smith on the fears that privatization will stay grounded

It is seven years since leading members of Mrs Thatcher's shadow cabinet disclosed a few tantalizing details of their privatization plans in the run-up to the May 1979 general election. Prominent then on everyone's list of target companies was British Airways. And surprising as it may seem today, the proposal to sell BA, announced in the Commons by John Nott in July 1979, actually marked the inauguration of the privatization programme. BA is still awaiting take-off. This week, not for the first time, tense discussions are being held in the City and in Whitehall about whether BA should finally be given the green light. This time, the distinction between another postponement and an effective cancellation looks finer than it has ever been.

Lord King, BA's chairman, has made clear his own conviction that the airline must be sold in June or July at all costs. Any attempt by the government to thwart him and his board in the coming weeks — and there is every sign that this could be the plan — is sure to prompt a dramatic response.

It is not hard to understand the strong line being taken by King and his senior executives: the most conspicuous of whom have joined since 1981 hoping to enjoy a spell at the top of a leading private-sector airline. But their acute impatience reflects more than just accumulated frustration. They fear that BA's already fragile credibility in the City might well have trouble surviving another setback. The accountants and stockbrokers were originally set to work on S&P documents back in 1980. Then BA was overwhelmed by the world airline recession of 1980-83: its borrowing rocketed and the City turned from speculation about the correct pricing of shares in BA to gossip about its chances of survival.

In 1984 work on the sale documents was resumed, but after six months BA fell foul of the US courts because of its part in the 1982 Laker Airways collapse. Back went the privatization papers into the filing cabinet, where they stayed for most of last year. Now the airline is trying again. A presentation of its wares has been given to select gatherings all over the country. Stockbrokers have prepared their final selling reports. Media time has been booked for a television blitz. In short, BA's board has already taken a flyer on a July sale — and the cost of another postponement has risen accordingly.

Other candidates for privatization — notably British Gas — would keep BA waiting until well into 1987... and the present bull market cannot last forever. This week's talks have acquired an added tension because BA is deeply suspicious of the government's motives for even considering another postponement, and fears a change of heart. Two pretexts exist for shelving

the July date. BA is not yet free of the Laker imbroglio. The US anti-trust actions against BA could well be settled on March 17, but others have arisen to worry the Transport Department.

Second, the debate between BA and Whitehall over the airline's finances and their implications for UK domestic airline competition has become badly tangled, even by the standards of past pre-privatization horse-trading.

From the government's viewpoint, both issues demand extreme caution. On the legal front, BA protests that the sums involved are now relatively insignificant and the potential for embarrassment strictly limited. The civil servants are not so sure. BA offered uncomfortably similar reassurances for most of 1984, until the Laker action blew up only days before a firm commitment was to be made to a February 1985 privatization date.

On the finances, the Treasury appears to have no crying need for the proceeds of a BA sale during 1986/7. And the government is still concerned about what a private-sector BA might do to its domestic competitors, were it to be unleashed with one of the most powerful balance sheets in the international industry and freedom to flex it at will.

The Civil Aviation Authority

proposed radical reforms two years ago aimed at exactly this problem, but they were comprehensively disregarded in a white paper, *Airline Competition Policy*, in October 1984. Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian, has now been reminding Transport Department officials of their promises since 1984 to nurture more competition in the UK sector.

The question this week is how far Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, is prepared to endanger the sale of BA in order to avoid potential complications over the impact of BA on its commercial rivals. Have the attractions of privatizing BA begun to fade altogether, now that the lure of the marketplace has helped restore it to its present rude health?

But as the company's financial recovery suggests, great sacrifices have been made in the name of BA's sale since 1979 — not least by Ridley himself, since it was he in 1984 who swept aside the CAA's earlier objections over competition. There are many both inside BA and beyond who would see a cancelled sale, after seven tortuous years, as a breach of political faith. King can be expected to lead them from the front.

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Duncan Campbell-Smith, of McKinsey & Co, is the author of *Struggle for Take-Off: The British Airways Story*, to be published by Coronet on April 3.

## Bernard Levin



# A means test without the meanness

administered form of it is in itself a sin that cries aloud to heaven.

It takes not more than seven seconds' thought to realize that we already have a gigantic means test, enforced throughout the land and applying to all classes and conditions. It is the progressive income tax, under the terms of which, when a government wishes to spend or waste a few billion pounds, it raises the wind by confiscating, without apology or thanks, much of the income earned by the citizens, with those who earn more obliged (very properly) to pay more. And, most curiously, this means test is not denounced, indeed is applauded, by those who scream themselves hoarse at the suggestion of graded payments for medical treatment, let alone graded reductions in welfare benefits.

Or charges for admission to museums and art galleries maintained at public expense, even if there are no such charges on Sundays; which is where I started. The denouncers and hoarse-screamers point to the terrible example of the Victoria and Albert Museum, which has recently begun to solicit a voluntary entrance fee of £2, and has seen its attendance figures fall sharply. My view of the V & A's scheme is that £2 is too high and the voluntary nature of the charge absurd, but that the principle is valid. Let Sir Roy Strong reduce the charge to 50p and make it compulsory, and then keep his nerve: within a year, everyone will have forgotten that it was ever free, and will be handing over the money without demur or even thought. It will be easier, of course, if other public museums and galleries were to do the same, and I hope they will. And if they won't, perhaps the government, when it has finished re-enacting the legislation for whipping sturdy beggars through the streets at the car's tail, might take a deep breath and compel them to.

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As it happens, the Natural History Museum is instituting charges because the alternative would be to sack 80 members of the staff, which I should have thought Lord Jenkins would deplore even more strongly. But given the fact that even Macenas and Lorenzo de Medici had to draw the line somewhere, there will never be enough money for museums and galleries to put as many exhibitions as they would like, or to improve their buildings to the extent that they would like, or to acquire as many additions to their collections as they would like; what is the objection to their charging reasonable sums (with concessions to the truly unmonied and a free day a week) to those who wish to enter, and whatever the objection is, why does it not apply to the rest of the world?

I do not see why we should stop at art galleries. Apart from the apparently implacable resolve on the part of the librarians to extirpate the practice of reading, what was the real reason that authors were paid for library loans of their books not by a charge of a penny a book withdrawal, but by the weird, cumbersome and inadequate system that was finally adopted, Public Lending Right? It was, surely, our national determination to go on pretending, in the teeth of the evidence, that there is a free lunch, that resources are infinite, that Christmas comes far more often than once a year, that it is profoundly immoral to charge anybody for anything except in a shop, if there.

I will go further. Try to put out of your mind your knowledge that I wish to send women down the mines and restore the Combination Acts, the Elizabethan Poor Law and the Slave Trade; can you tell me, coherently, why those who can afford to pay for some or even all of their medical treatment under the National Health Service should not do so? I do not use the NHS, but I have an unrestricted right to, and if I did, I would not think it odd, let alone outrageous, for a man with my income to make up at least some of the expense incurred by the taxpayers (despite the fact that I am one of them) whenever any of my numerous, distressing and astonishingly varied diseases has to be attended to. What is more, I would not think it wrong for a man with considerably less than my income to be obliged to stump up something towards his medical treatment, be it no more than £1 for a visit to the doctor and a fiver for an operation. Such rates would still be far below what the facilities cost, and there is already a precedent in the charges for NHS prescriptions.

You see what I am getting at? If you do, but are so appalled by it that you find it too painful to dwell upon, let me do the dwelling. What is wrong with a means test? Not what was wrong: the old one, before the Second World War, earned its odium by the crude and offensive way in which it was drawn up and applied. But for the life of me, I cannot see why a reasonable and humanely

## Ronald Butt

# Why the Tories must take care

By using the little grey cells, one can usually predict the outcome of the next election at this stage of a parliament. Thus it was clear by the end of 1968 that Harold Wilson would be ejected, as he was in 1970 for failing to deliver his inflated promises. The nation's memory would defeat him.

It had been equally clear in advance that Mr Wilson would oust the Tories in 1964, since a wind of intellectual fashion was blowing for the classless, social democratic party into which Labour had apparently been transformed. The nation wanted a wholly new dispensation, just as when it replaced James Callaghan by Mrs Thatcher in 1979.

Today, Mrs Thatcher is not at risk for failing to fulfil her principal promises. She has drastically cut inflation, reformed and democratized the unions, denationalized industries on a scale few had thought possible and spread ownership. All this has been so popular that David Owen is now preaching the social market economy, and Neil Kinnock has relegated re-nationalization to the bottom of Labour's priorities.

Nor is Mrs Thatcher likely to be turned out because there is a wind of intellectual fashion against her and for either of the opposition parties. Why, then, have so many priorities which ought to replace the old ones, and that Mrs Thatcher does not understand this. They feel morally uncomfortable and unhappy. As Gallup has shown, on all the social issues (principally unemployment, followed by health and education) the overwhelming verdict is that Labour would handle them best, followed by the Alliance and with the Tories third.

It is sometimes said that because those in work prosper, unemployment is less politically important than it seems. But it is a mistake to think that unemployment will swing seats only where it is very high; if that were so, why should the Tories be under so grave a threat from the Alliance in the prosperous South? There is more altruism in voting than is supposed — provided not voting Tory doesn't let Labour in.

In the social arena now causes most public concern, the government is paying the price for failing to attempt the radical reforms to which it was originally attached, and for showing clear signs of not knowing what to do next. It was implicit in its original programme that it would somehow reform the social services to concentrate funds where the real needs are. Instead, fearing radical change, it has trimmed funds where expedient, too often harming the good more than the bad. The failures of the comprehensive system (for which Labour was largely responsible) being one of the Tories' 1979 advantages.

moreover... Miles Kington

## Incongruities incorporated

I am a great fan of radio, which I consider to be an advanced form of television. (The pictures on TV are very drab and mundane compared to the mental pictures produced by radio.) But I had forgotten until last week that Radio 4 is also responsible for the invention of a kind of English which is not found anywhere else in the media: the radio link. This consists of taking two topics which have absolutely nothing in common and then finding a link between them, and the more tenuous the better.

The example I heard last week came from a presenter who was linking a murder thriller to a programme about cheese-making. Before I tell you how she did it, perhaps you would care to think how you would find a connection between murder and cheese. Give up? Well, she said: "And from something blood-curdling to something rather more milk-curdling..."

Once you get the way their minds work, it becomes a little easier. She might equally well have said: "And so from the gruesome to the Gruyere..." Or perhaps: "After the rising gorge, we move to the Cheddar Gorge." If, on the other hand, she had been looking for a move from palaeontology to cheese-making, it would be: "From the world of the Neanderthal to the world of the Emmenthal." It's like a game really.

That's probably how they do it at Radio 4, as a kind of game. They're sitting round in the Radio Link department, hugging their mugs of tea, and somebody says: "All right, how do you get from opera to natural history? Thirty seconds, everyone." After 30 seconds, somebody says: "And so from the world of Madame Butterfly, we move to the world of real butterflies."

"Mum, not bad," says someone else, "but how about: 'From the world of the Merry Widow to the world of the black widow.'"

"Or, how about: Die Fledermaus of course means a bat, and that's exactly what we'll be looking at..."

"No, no. That's a link into a cricket commentary."

What's amazing is that this sort of contorted thinking has not

Instead, it has introduced a small but useful assisted places scheme, and Sir Keith Joseph has valuably inspired a new approach to the curriculum. But it has done nothing radical. Instead, the schools have been locked in a devastating strike, for which political clumsiness as well as union militancy is responsible, and the government has wasted its energy talking about a voucher scheme which its officials have talked it out of. Now Mrs Thatcher talks of going up that path again.

More generally, concern about health and essential social services will not be stifled by bandying figures of higher spending, any more than worry about old people dying of hyperthermia will be stilled by reeling off figures to show how much more the government is spending on their heating. When Mrs Thatcher did that in the Commons on Tuesday she simply sounded as though she minds more about defending her record than thinking of new ways of tackling the problem.

Reciting high spending figures simply sounds hard-faced and uncaring. The public judges these things not from figures but from what it knows from its local experience about (say) the problems of hospital admissions, or from what it reads in the papers. Ministers taking their stand on total figures sound uncaring because they have been so long in office. They sound not like responsive politicians but civil servants obsessed with the letter of the law.

Mrs Thatcher should face the fact that the credit for past successes is being used up. Moreover, the intellectual climate which sustained her before and after 1979 has lost force, partly, one suspects, because the government's failure to attempt in practice the ideas it applauded in theory suggests that they weren't very practical after all. Meanwhile, the government wastes its energies on tortuous policies (first there was local government; now there is the over-sweeping bill on Sunday trading) which offend many of its natural supporters.

Applauded for what it has done, disliked for what it is doing and failing to do, criticized for incompetence over Western, the government is faced by a Labour Party trying to shed its leftist image and an Alliance which is likely to get new credibility from its certain by-election capture of Derbyshire West and possible victories in Fulham and, conceivably, Ryedale.

A growing number of people would vote for Owen and the Alliance if they thought it would not let Labour in, and they could get that reassurance from these election clues. For the first time since 1951, we have a wholly unpredictable general election, coming. The government has no reason for despair, but every reason for worry and action.

## Taking refuge in the reference books

The addition this year of Birmingham as a centre for a regional final of the Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship has lessened the pressure on Bristol and obviated the need to eliminate any of the competitors there. Londoners, however, must continue to fight for survival in the championship, and an Eliminator puzzle. No 16,980, was set for them in last Thursday's paper. As solvers may have noticed, this puzzle was intentionally difficult and, unusually, reference books were needed for its solution. Competitors who have qualified for the London A and B finals will be informed as soon as the entries have been checked. In the meantime here is a layman's guide to the answers. (See solution above today's crossword.)

Across: 1. CLAW-HAMMER is facetious for a dress coat, so one may seize, or claw, the forger (fabrication for the blacksmith's hammer) who is wearing it. 6. FAZE, sounding like (in a whisp-er) phase, or stage. 9. A measure, em, for (i.e. instead of) den (study), in the word denigration, giving EMIGRATION. 10. NISI,

Latin for 'save' or 'except', hidden in 'an agonising fate'. 12. SHEM — She (Rider Haggard's *Ayesha*) + m (abbreviation for married). Shem being the brother of Ham, the namesake of Ham Peggotty in *David Copperfield*. 13. The Woman in White refers not to the novel by Wilkie Collins but to PIERETTE, the feminine of the French pantomime figure pierrot who had a whitened face and hat, a performer on the pier ("over-seas"). 15. ALGERNON Moncrieff in *The Importance of Being Earnest* had a flat in Half-Moon Street and turned out to be Jack Worthing's brother. 16. STRATI, or sheets of cloud, anagram of ARTIST. 18. DATA (facts) reflected or reversed in MI (State of Michigan or Mississippi) = MATADI, chief port of Zaire. 20. DRY-PLATE, a sensitized photographic plate from which a picture can be made without preliminary use of bath. 23. A GHOST-WORD ("spirit-message") is a word that arises from error; for example Tweed which was a misreading of tweel, the Scottish form of twill. 24. AE, the pen-name of George William Russell,

Irish poet and journalist, round PS ("writing under signature") = APSE. 26. NAIL, driven by Jael through Sisera's temples (*Judges* 4.2 ff). 27. Sides of HAM = H & M, each with OGEN (anagram of GONE) = HOGEN MOGEN meaning Holland or The Netherlands (See *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, 28. IRMA appears backwards in America, the City of the Golden Temple. 29. Talk or CHAT to ELAINE, the Lily Maid of Astolat, whose story is told in Tennyson's *Lancelot and Elaine* = CHATELAINE, a key-holder.

Down: 1. "From CLEE to heaven the beacon burns" (*A Shropshire Lad*). 2. A BISH (mistake) over A (G-string) = ABISHAG, the Shunammite virgin brought in to warm David in his old age by lying in his bosom (*Judges* 1.1-4). 3. "E's a kind of giddy HAR-UMFRODITE." Kipling's description in *Soldier on a Sailor* too of a Jolly, or Royal Marine. 4. METAPHOR — Pa (father) reversed in anagram of mother. 5. EPOPEE, an epic: the poet POPE in the middle of GrEEce. 7. The heroine of the light opera *Naughty*

*Marietta* going topless becomes ARIETTA, a little aria or air. 8. (Eastern) PI-MEN (the) DIES (March) 15 = EPIMENIDES, Cretan religious teacher (and an early Rip Van Winkle) — see Brewer. 11. "I can trace my ancestry back to a PROTO-PLASMAL atomic globe..." I was born sneering" — Pooch Bah, *The Mikado*. 14. SALMAGUND, or *The Whim-Whams and Opinions of Laurence Langstaff Esq & Others*, satirical essays and poems by Washington Irving and others. 17. GRADIENT, anagram (indicated by *The Vortex*) of TRAGEDIAN minus A. 19. Most of The O (love) IS inside MM (messieurs) = the doctrine of THOMISM. 21. EG, each in ASSA, the Italian "ver" in music = ASSEGAI. 22. L (left) in MOOCH (skulk) = MOLOCH, "horrid king, besmeared with blood." (Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 25. An/ser/ne, or like a goose, leaves ANNE when disheartened. (And my apologies to any of you who were).

John Grant  
Crossword Editor





## COUNCILLORS AND THE LAW

Mr Derek Hutton and Mr Ted Knight imported into local government ideologies alien to the proper management of common services. In a regime of grants and revenues requiring special prudence they played fast and loose. They were warned, by their own officials, by the district auditor, even by the leaders of their own party. They persisted, and caused a loss of the public money they were in office to steward and conserve. Such abuse of trust deserves penalty.

The manners and methods of *Militant* and the fact of the parallel conviction of several of the surcharged Liverpool councillors by the Labour Party will make yesterday's municipal punishment seem appropriate. But the righteousness of the judgement and the procedure used against the Lambeth and Liverpool councillors must not be allowed to turn on the conceit of a Derek Hutton.

The judges carefully examined the manner of decision-making in the two council chambers last year. They demonstrated, pretty clearly, that decisions to delay making a rate were taken for the crudest of political reasons — to frighten or cajole the government into coming up with extra money. No one who listened to winter debates within the Labour Party in 1984-85 can doubt that was the reasoning employed by the Lambeth and Liverpool activists. It also has to be said that the lever in much of their discussion was the decision by the former Secretary of State

for the Environment, Mr Patrick Jenkin, to make a concessionary payment to Liverpool City Council in 1984.

Despite Mr Jenkin's protestations there was a belief that he would repeat his act in 1985. The councillors made a political miscalculation. But because they did so significant sums of public money were lost. The judges have, not for the first time, clarified the boundary between party politics and the operation of public agencies. The law, for local government, makes it plain that political gamesmanship is not a valid reason for manipulating the budget making process.

The despatch of Mr Hutton and Mr Knight does not end the case. The terms of the judgement, despite some equivocation on dates by Lord Justice Glidewell, clearly open the possibility of suits against half a dozen other councils including Camden and Sheffield. It is no good for the Audit Commission to insinuate that this should be a matter for private prosecution. The Commission may be reluctant to involve itself further in politics, but it cannot extricate itself at this point. Having instigated the punishment of the Liverpool and Lambeth councillors, it really must proceed with actions against the others. Equality of treatment demands that.

And at that point the wider implications of this judgement must be considered — not least in the Department of the Environment and other quar-

ters of a government not usually counted friendly to the municipal cause. To hold councillors responsible for an abuse of trust and remove them from office is one thing but it is quite another to bankrupt a group which, standing behind Mr Hutton and Mr Knight in mistaken but sincere support, includes a number of common people of small or negligible means.

Pursuing them for the surcharge is a heavy fate; even harder is to impose on them the cost of an action which, at the very least, has served a useful general purpose by clarifying the operation of the 1982 Rates Act and other law. It is pertinent to remark how few other public officials, elected and unelected, stand to have their financial decisions held up to minute scrutiny by the likes of the district auditor. There are many public officials who, without penalty, have lost the public purse considerably larger sums than the £230,000 involved here.

To make councillors so specially responsible raises the question of incentives to local office holding. If local government — meaning the honest use of discretion by elected members — matters then the calibre and number of candidates for office matters too. The judges, in their wise determination of this case, may have hastened the decline of local government by raising yet another barrier to discretionary local administration. They have certainly raised its price.

## A WASTED EMERGENCY

The declaration of the State of Emergency in South Africa eight months ago was a double-barrelled political gesture. It was designed to allay right-wing fears that Pretoria was losing its grip and to shock the unruly township mobs into obedience to the state. In the event, Pretoria succeeded only in shooting itself in the foot.

Far from putting out the fire of black rage, the presence of the police and the army in South Africa's townships fuelled it to the point where, despite all President Botha's assurances to the contrary, the death toll today is as high as it has ever been.

But the damage was not restricted to the black ghettos. There is little doubt that the State of Emergency, a tacit admission by Pretoria that South Africa was in deep trouble, hastened its international isolation, brought foreign camera crews and journalists flocking to its shores in the mistaken belief that the revolution was at hand and persuaded foreign bankers and investors that their funds were under threat.

It also added the withdrawal

of the army from the townships to a lengthening list of non-negotiable demands by black activists. The irony was that, apart from the perceived need for a political gesture, the State of Emergency was not really necessary. The South African security forces already possessed extraordinary powers of arrest and detention to deal with civil unrest. Indeed, it would seem that, even as the Emergency is lifted, those powers may be extended to grant the police permanent immunity against prosecution arising from their actions in situations of unrest.

But just as the imposition of the State of Emergency was a political gesture, its lifting at a time when the violence continues unabated, has a similar political intention. It will certainly produce a collective sigh of relief in Western capitals, but its main purpose must be to persuade at least some black leaders to leave the streets and return to the negotiating chamber.

There is little doubt that Pretoria has been deeply shocked by the general rejection of its offer of a Statutory Council to negotiate power-

sharing with the country's black majority. It is to be hoped that President Botha's announcement, despite the hint of further police powers, will help at least some black leaders across that stile.

One of the most distressing, if largely unsupported, elements in the complex South African equation has been the horrifying increase in violence by blacks upon blacks in recent months. Tribal faction fighting has exacted a growing toll, while a spate of political executions carried out by warring black opposition groups has splintered their ranks even further.

Since President Botha feels secure enough to lift the State of Emergency, the black opposition should realise that unrest is not about to topple the South African regime. It should start thinking instead about the kind of future it wants to inherit.

The time must come when the killing has to stop — and the talking start. The lifting of the State of Emergency could provide the opportunity, however slight, for leaders to succeed where the mobs have failed.

## SYRIA'S UNACCEPTABLE FRIENDS

The Fatah Revolutionary Organization, better known by the name of its founder Abu Nidal, is held to have been responsible for the loss of 90 lives last year. The Christmas attacks at Rome and Vienna airports were just the most graphic illustration of its methods.

The brutality of Abu Nidal's campaign does little for the future of Palestinians and still less for the reputations of those countries which tolerate its activities. Those countries include Syria, whose foreign minister has been in Britain this week as an official guest of the Government.

Mr Farouk al-Sharaa, at a press conference yesterday, argued that the organization's office in Damascus was concerned with politics and the press, that "not even a knife" was allowed into the building by the Syrian authorities. His country opposed violence, regretted that so many innocent civilians had been hurt. But its policy was to give sanctuary to all those who stood for the Palestinian cause, even those with whom it disagreed. Even Yasser Arafat was allowed there, he explained.

### Nimrod decision

From Commander Peter Bruce, RN  
Sir, Your leader (February 28) about the £900m Nimrod debate shows, with hindsight, this affair was another triumph of ambitious home sales talk over common sense. So the Defence Secretary, seemingly, is going to tighten up

This is not good enough. There is an argument, it is true, that it makes sense to allow one's enemies to expose themselves — that even the tip of the iceberg gives some indication of what might lie below. But at the blind eye which Syria turns towards it makes a nonsense of this claim. The one characteristic which Abu Nidal's unfortunate targets share is that they support, or their governments support, a policy of compromise in the Middle East. If Syria wants to become a leading influence upon the course of events there must come a time when it publicly and firmly dissociates itself from the ideology of terror and from those who preach it.

But what Syria is prepared to do so remains very questionable. The murder of Mr Feroz al-Masri, the moderate Palestinian leader who was gunned down outside Nabulus last week on the West Bank at the weekend, was the second and perhaps fatal blow to the peace process which had recently owed so much to the efforts of King Hussein. The first had been the breakdown in dialogue between Amman and Yasser Arafat over the

procurement procedures. This is twaddle. In 1976 it was crystal clear to some that Nimrod was likely to be another lame attempt to match the USA in technology in one bound. Either we should go back to the time the decision was made and parade those politicians and Services officers who got it right or wrong. Alternatively, have Service

officers stay in the job much longer, so at least someone will believe he will still be around when the project is due to come to fruition.

Yours etc,  
PETER BRUCE,  
Kestrel Cottage,  
Shirley Holmes,  
Lymington, Hampshire.

## Danger of delay on whisky bid

From Lord Polwarth

Sir, I have not intervened to take sides in the contest for the hand of the Distillers Company, but it is important that wider considerations be taken into account than simply the possibility of a domestic monopoly which led to the reference of the original Guinness proposals to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The recent House of Lords Select Committee on Overseas Trade, of which I was a member, emphasised the vital need for export-led growth of our industries if the country is to survive the inevitable run-down of North Sea oil without a grave reduction in our standard of living. Few industries have such a record of, and potential for, contributing to our export growth as the Scotch whisky industry.

Guinness have now withdrawn their original offer and submitted a fresh one which would result in a less dominating position in the UK market, while still creating a strong and competitive world-wide marketing group.

In considering whether to refer this new offer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, I would therefore urge the Government to bear in mind the delay, probably of several months, which would result from such a reference, and the immediate advantage which this would give to the other bidder.

Whatever the outcome would make a more satisfactory match, at least let them both contest it from an equal start, without one of them having their hand tied behind their back from the word "go". Yours faithfully,  
POLWARTH,  
House of Lords,  
March 3.

## 'The Holocaust'

From Dr A. Polonsky

Sir, I was moved by the savage indignation which pervaded Piers Brendon's review (February 27) of Martin Gilbert's *The Holocaust*. But in one area his anger at the Nazi crimes committed against the Jews leads him astray. To claim that "the Poles tried to complete Hitler's work after the war" is a travesty of the truth.

It is true that a fair number of Jews died in the near civil war which racked Poland between 1944 and 1948. Some of these deaths were the result of clearly anti-Semitic incidents, the worst of which was the pogrom in Kielce in July, 1946, in which at least 36 Jews died. Yet to hold "the Poles" responsible for these tragic events is quite unfair.

The anti-Jewish violence was condemned by the communist-dominated Polish Government, the official and still legal position headed by Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, all the still functioning anti-communist underground forces with the exception of a small openly pro-fascist group, and the Polish Government in London.

Moreover, a number of serious analysts have argued that the Kielce pogrom was the result of a provocation on the part of some communist officials which aimed at embarrassing the opposition by tainting it with anti-Semitism. No one would wish to deny the existence in Poland of anti-Semitic feelings. But the simple equation of the Poles with the Nazis is grossly unfair and inhibits a clear-sighted and dispassionate analysis of the tragic fate of both Jews and Poles which is so vital if we are to move away from the harmful stereotypes of the past.

Yours sincerely,  
ANTONY POLONSKY,  
President,  
Institute for Polish Jewish Studies,  
45 St. Giles,  
Oxford,  
February 27.

implied acknowledgement of Israel's right to exist). The next option for the disenchanted Hussein was to turn for Palestinian support to the moderate West Bank leaders — of whom al-Masri was among the more notable. His assassination (possibly by Abu Nidal) would seem to have blocked that alternative. So where does Hussein turn next?

The most obvious road is that to Damascus (in fact it is President Assad's turn to go to Amman). Syria has a role to play in the Middle East which is important — and could be crucial.

However opposed the Syrian government may now be to the politics of compromise, however strongly it supports policies which Israel is unlikely to accept, President Assad will have to face up to the fact that sooner or later he will have to bend. He could start now by demonstrating that Syria is prepared to take a firmer stand against those like Abu Nidal whose activities set them apart from all men of good will.

## Silence out of court

From Mr Patrick Healy

Sir, Bernard Levin (February 28) and the Lord Chancellor argue that judges should be forbidden from making extra-judicial utterances in public. Lord Hailsham claims additional vigour for this view from the so-called Kilmuir rules, which to him represent the consensus of the judiciary in favour of a self-imposed vow of silence. Both for that judicial locution is inimical to the independence of the judiciary and that it would compromise impartiality in the administration of justice.

These fears would be well founded if judges showed themselves unbridled licence to give partisan and polemical opinions on matters of public controversy. But matters of controversy do not exhaust the range of public interest and I would suggest that judicial comments on non-contentious matters of public interest would be welcome. It would be difficult to prescribe

## Anomalies on Sunday trading

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Sir, The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, in his letter which you publish today (March 4) pleads for the kind of Sunday which had disappeared in this country, and in other advanced countries, long before the Shops Bill was introduced. It could not be recreated if that Bill were rejected.

In this country at present four million people work regularly on Sundays. They work in continuous-process industries, such as cement, in hotels and catering, in transport, in the media, in electricity, in gas, and public services generally, and also in residential establishments. Did Cardinal Hume dispense with domestic and catering services on Sunday at Ampleforth?

If his Eminence really wants to create the kind of Sunday which sounds so attractive in his letter, he will need to agitate for the prohibition, presumably backed by the criminal penalties which at present apply to shops, of all these activities. He would then be quite logical in his opposition to the freeing of shops.

So far as his suggestion of a compromise on shops is concerned, the Auld committee found, after full inquiry, that there was no compromise which would not create further anomalies and unfairness. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
BOYD-CARPENTER,  
House of Lords,  
March 4.

From Sir David Price, MP for Eastleigh (Conservative)

Sir, In his St David's Day letter to you about Sunday trading, Cardinal Hume reaffirmed his support for the Keep Sunday Special Campaign. At the same time, he pleaded with the Government "to establish a compromise that secures the common good".

In my judgement, such a compromise lies readily at hand, waiting to be used. It is to be found in paragraphs 219-221 of the Auld committee report, entitled "local decisions". The thrust of this compromise lies in the following quotation from paragraph 219: "... shopping seems to us to be one area where a reasonable case might be made for local discretion. Shopping is primarily a local activity, employing local people and it would be local residents who would be disturbed by any untoward noise or traffic congestion."

The local authorities have long experience as the enforcement agencies for trading hours, so there would be nothing new in placing the responsibility upon them. There are numerous variations of the local option compromise.

The local option amendment moved in the House of Lords was too complicated to survive. I would like to propose a much simpler version. Each local authority would be required to determine only two issues. First, will the local authority permit Sunday opening in its borough or district? Secondly, if the answer is in the affirmative, what are to be the permitted hours? These two issues could be settled either by

the elected councillors or by a local referendum.

This compromise avoids all the manifest difficulties of exemption by type of shop, size of shop, periods of the year, and all the other exemptions which were examined and dismissed by the Auld committee.

It is true that the Auld committee having examined variations of the local option compromise decided against them, because in their view local option "would aggravate the variations that the present inconsistent enforcement of the law has produced". In fact my compromise would eliminate most of the anomalies of the present Shops Act, because if shops were permitted to open, they could sell anything they wanted, so that the only problem of enforcement would be one of hours.

Of course, my compromise might lead to variations from one district to the next. No doubt this would offend the centralists amongst us, but were differences in the past in early closing hours so devastating? In any case, what is so offensive in differing expressions of local democracy?

Space forbids me to spell out my local option compromise in more detail, including possible nationally determined exemptions such as the sale of newspapers, but I offer it to the Government in the spirit of St Mark's Gospel that, "the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath". Yours faithfully,  
DAVID PRICE,  
House of Commons,  
March 3.

From Mr Robert Hicks, MP for Cornwall South-East (Conservative)

Sir, The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster argues persuasively for keeping a balance on the sensitive issue of Sunday trading. Few would question his analysis of the existing situation.

The Cardinal understandably advocates a compromise solution on the basis of a legal framework. The key question surely is whether or not such a compromise is available on a sound and sustainable statutory basis.

Partial restriction must imply the arbitrary drawing of limits. This could be based on the hours that shops may open, restricting the numbers they employ, or limiting the range of products they are allowed to sell. Local authority discretion has also been suggested as a possibility.

Legislation on the basis of any of these or a combination would most certainly in practice again result in the growth of anomalies and inconsistencies that currently exist.

I for one would be delighted and indeed relieved if a satisfactory formula could be found that combines choice and an absence of absurdities. Perhaps the Cardinal could oblige — since at the moment I can see no alternative to the Government's proposals. Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT HICKS,  
House of Commons,  
March 4.

## English misused

From Mr M. S. E. Robin

Sir, The comments (February 25) by several professors of engineering on the declining standard of English mastered by engineers are certainly well founded. What they did not mention, however, is the appalling inability of British professional engineers to speak European languages.

Departments of engineering in the United Kingdom fail to encourage students to study other languages and certainly fail almost totally in the provision of language courses. When these are available they are often poorly taught and understaffed.

There are, of course, exceptions, but when one considers the emphasis on these skills amongst our European counterparts we should be very worried.

L'Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne states that for chemical engineers, to know English and German is "indispensable dans la vie professionnelle". German and Swiss universities allow their students to study for a year in another country as a recognised part of their course. British universities do not accept this.

If Britain wishes to regain her former engineering prowess, she must realise that insularity is a hindrance. Yours faithfully,  
M. S. E. ROBIN,  
Imperial College, SW7,  
February 27.

## Keeping out the cold

From Mrs Atsuko Sakiyama

Sir, In Japan, in the old days, a hole for a furnace was dug in the centre of the living room and a table was placed over it. We used to use solid charcoal balls for fuel and cover the table with a quilt and place a wooden board on it.

Nowadays the charcoal balls are replaced by an electric heater (*kotatsu*) which is attached to the underside of the table board. We can put a *kotatsu* anywhere in our houses or flats without digging holes in the floor. You only need to lay a rug on the floor, place a *kotatsu* above it, cover it in the usual way and switch on. In this way you can save fuel charges incredibly.

A *kotatsu* is never a shabby piece of furniture. When you provide a beautiful quilt with a wooden board, it looks gorgeous and once you are accustomed to its comfortable warmth you won't be able to leave it.

It is an ideal way of keeping you warm because your legs and feet feel warm while your head is kept in cold temperature. You can enjoy writing, reading, eating, playing cards and many other things on the table. It assures you will be very warm physically as well as financially, and will save many people from hypothermia. Yours sincerely,  
ATSUKO SAKIYAMA,  
61 Hodford Road, NW11,  
February 28.

related to the administration of justice. Freedom of speech is quite compatible with a judge's oath of office if exercised with circumspect discretion. In view of the myriad weighty matters that are entrusted to the judiciary I am confident that the judges would exercise this discretion wisely.

There is no basis for saying that extra-judicial silence is a superior virtue and there is no demonstrable need for positive rules on the subject. Indeed, the Kilmuir rules are otiose.

The position espoused by Mr Levin and Lord Hailsham implies, of course, that judges would transgress their strictures if they were to participate in the public discussion of the right of judges to participate in public discussions. It is a silly idea.

Yours sincerely,  
PATRICK HEALY,  
University of Oxford,  
Centre for Socio-Legal Studies,  
Wolfson College,  
Oxford,  
February 28.



## ON THIS DAY

MARCH 6 1934

Rasputin was murdered on December 29/30, 1916 and his killer, Prince Yussouppoff (1887-1967) was exiled by the Czar to Kursh. In August, 1934 MGM, which had made a film on Rasputin, and Yussouppoff's wife, Princess Irina, who died in 1970, agreed to cease all litigation, on condition that the film contained a statement that the part of Natasha was fictional. The film was first shown in London in June, 1933 with Lionel Barrymore as Rasputin.

### Law Report, March 5

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
KING'S BENCH DIVISION  
PRINCESS YOUSOUPOFF  
v. METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER  
PICTURES, LIMITED  
Before MR. JUSTICE AVORY  
and a Special Jury

The jury returned a verdict for Princess Irina Alexandrovna of Russia, the wife of Prince Yussouppoff, of Rue Guttenberg, Boulogne-sur-Seine, Paris, assessing the damages at £25,000, in the action in which she claimed against Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures, Limited, cinematograph film producers and distributors, of Upper St. Martin's Lane, W.C., damages for a libel which she said was contained in a sound film entitled *Rasputin, the Mad Monk*. The Princess said that the defendants published in the film pictures and words which were understood to mean that she (the Princess), therein called the "Princess Natasha", had been seduced by and was the mistress of Rasputin.

The defendants denied that the film was defamatory and further said that it did not refer to the Princess.

Sir Patrick Hastings, K.C., and Mr. St. John Field appeared for the Princess; Sir William Jowett, K.C., Mr. H. J. Wallington, K.C., Mr. V. R. Idelson and Mr. Sylvester Gates for the defendants.

### FINAL SPEECH FOR DEFENCE

Sir WILLIAM JOWETT, in his closing speech to the jury for the defence, said that Princess Natasha in the film was a woman of a noble character who suffered, if it were possible, from an excess of simplicity and purity, so that she did not see the grime and horror of Rasputin's personality. To say that to liken anyone to Natasha was to impute anything against her chastity was ridiculous.

The Princess had to establish that ordinary, sensible people, who knew her, would think that Natasha in the film referred to her. She sought to do that by showing that Prince Chgodieff in the film, who was betrothed to Natasha, was a portrayal of Prince Yussouppoff, her husband. That she had failed to do so.

### SIR PATRICK HASTINGS' ADDRESS

SIR PATRICK HASTINGS, in addressing the jury, said that if Natasha was a portrayal of Princess Yussouppoff, the film depicted her as a woman who had been defiled by a blackguard.

No one had even suggested that the death of Rasputin was caused by anybody other than Prince Yussouppoff, who lived in the Moika Palace in St. Petersburg, and it was known that the death took place in an underground room. In the film Prince Chgodieff killed Rasputin in an underground room in the Moika Palace.

Chgodieff was Prince Yussouppoff thinly disguised. The Princess had been gravely wronged by the film and was entitled to heavy damages.

### THE SUMMING-UP

MR. JUSTICE AVORY, in summing-up, said that the case had been described as a novel and unprecedented one, but in his opinion, there was nothing in it to which the established principles applicable to other libel cases might not be applied.

The only question for the jury was whether the evidence had satisfied them that the film character of Natasha would be reasonably understood to represent Princess Yussouppoff by persons who knew her.

All the witnesses called for the Princess spoke with no uncertain voice of their impression of the film. It was for the jury to judge whether those witnesses did not represent a number of reasonable persons exercising a reasonable judgment. Unless the evidence called for the defence convinced the jury that the witnesses called for the Princess were not reasonable or responsible persons, the fact that the witnesses called for the defence thought that the characters of Chgodieff and Natasha represented persons other than the Princess and Princess did not destroy the evidence given by the Princess's witnesses.

After an absence of just over two hours the jury returned and announced that they found a verdict for Princess Yussouppoff and that they assessed the damages at £25,000.

Judgment was entered accordingly for the Princess for £25,000, with costs.

## Meaningful terms

From Miss G. M. Pentelow

Sir, I thought I needed a desk top calendar but discovered that I needed a date case.

Yours faithfully,  
GILLIAN M. PENTELTOW,  
King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry of King's College London,  
Denmark Hill, SE5,  
February 27.



# COURT AND SOCIAL

**The VITAMIN C that's doubly deliciously different**

Centurion Vitamin C pastilles are today's deliciously different way to take Vitamin C. Ideal for the whole family. Centurion can now be found in two flavours - Orange or Blackcurrant. Each pastille contains 75mg of Vitamin C. At only 55p for 4 weeks supply they're a healthy investment, too. From Chemists.



## THE ARTS

Television  
Soap as  
a game  
of lethal  
chess

Bobby Ewing, the goody-goody brother in *Dallas* (BBC), was laid to rest last night, in the presence of all his family, both his girlfriends and his horse. The twenty-third Psalm was read in resonant tones over his resting place, on the South Fork spread, and even his wicked brother, JR, shed a tear.

The death of a major character in any soap opera is an emotional peak for the audience, and a logistical nightmare for the series' creators. Their job is like the game of three-dimensional chess played in *Star Wars*; each character represents a strain of homespun philosophy which will give rise to certain predetermined scenarios.

With a character removed, the balance of power on the board must immediately be readjusted.

In *Dallas*, as in chess, the action is a battle for supremacy between black and white. This is fought between characters of unimpeachable goodness like Bobby, his mother, Miss Ellie and his former-but-dearly-loved wife Pam, and characters of irredeemable evil like JR and Pam's brother Cliff. People may act out of character to spice the storylines up a bit, but they must always run true to type by the end of the season.

The will-reading, a classic set-piece of the genre, was given the sort of full-blooded treatment the *Dallas* audience expects. The central issue was the disposition of Bobby's share in the family oil company; whoever inherited that would thereafter become JR's natural opponent.

The nerves of the knowing were stretched like bowstrings in the suspense. Dear Bobby's quintessentially sentimental bequests of his horse, his gun and his puppy's gold watch were milked for all they were worth: then at last the *Will of Bobby Ewing* was placed in the frail, manacled hands of Pam.

Instantly, fabled vistas of interminable squabbling opened up: the subsidiary issue of whether Sue Ellen was going to get drunk and abusive, drunk and raped, or merely totally wrecked was briskly resolved in favour of the last option as the final credits rolled. It was one of those occasions on which *Dallas* seemed to be an art like origami - intricate, skilful and totally pointless.

Celia Brayfield

The Royal Academy of Music, Britain's oldest principal music college, will announce details today of radical plans for its future. These include reducing student numbers by a third over the next five years, introducing an express stream for high-flying soloists and attracting more visits from international artists. The aim is to improve the staff-student ratio, and to increase the Academy's international reputation. An appeal is being launched to help fund the changes.

The announcement will end speculation in musical circles that the Academy was to become a "centre of excellence" for a handful of gifted soloists, with privileged funding and status. This idea is known to interest Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education. He is concerned that too many of our most talented young performers go abroad to finish their training, because of inadequate provision here. The Academy's plan has been perceived as an attempt to forestall Joseph.

Sir David Lumsden, the Academy's principal, denies this. "The plans have grown over several years. We are not seeking special status, nor shall we just train soloists. We'll still offer the same comprehensive musical education

The mounting rivalry among London's main music colleges reaches a turning-point in an announcement today: Fiona Maddocks reports

## The excellence of controversy

for all kinds of performers", he says. Indeed he condemns the notion of designating one college as a single shrine of talent. "A tier system would damage the entire profession."

His view is shared by heads of other colleges, of which the foremost are the Royal College of Music, Royal Northern College of Music and Guildhall School of Music and Drama. One called the idea "disastrous". They met Sir Keith Joseph a month ago to express their alarm. Last week, Sir Keith's only comment was that "All educational establishments should seek to be centres of excellence".

But why should the prospect of a "super-school", as it has been dubbed, cause such a furor? Several issues are at stake. The underlying assumption, of course,

is that the music colleges are failing in their task. This view - commonly voiced by music critics, agents and promoters, and often based on outdated experience - assumes that the colleges still inhabit the late 19th-century world in which most were founded. They are believed to produce too many mediocre string players, singers who can sight-read nothing later than Verdi and enough flautists to fill the world's symphony orchestras twice over. Having failed as soloists, the players then become bad teachers. Little wonder our best talent heads for Heathrow.

There is scant evidence, though, for this bleak view. Great strides have been taken since the Gulbenkian report (1978) on training professional musicians, which urged cutting student numbers and updating courses to meet today's

needs. Numbers are still too high, but this is simply in order to maintain the level of DES funding. Courses, however, have been transformed beyond recognition. Jazz, improvisation and film-music are regular features in addition to the basic repertoire. Contemporary music, once limited to the committed few, is now studied by all.

All this bodes well for most generally able performers, but is it adequate for the exceptional few? As any teacher would argue, in most respects the star soloist is born, not made. Many by-pass the institutions to allow more time for private practice. A new "super-school" would not alter that. The good teacher will always find time for the gifted pupil. Even were that not so, most colleges already have advanced performers' courses which attract applications by music

students from all over the world. What proof is there, then, of a mass exodus of talent abroad? Such evidence as there is seems to deny the suggestion. Of the 354 pupils leaving England's specialist music schools (Chetham's, Yehudi Menuhin, Purcell and Wells Cathedral) in the past five years, only 11 went abroad: 97 per cent progressed to higher training in this country. The major trusts which fund music scholarships report a similar trend.

No one would claim these facts tell the whole story. Nor do they disguise the many problems which beset the music colleges, the biggest of which is too many students. If numbers were reduced, as the Academy now proposes, associated difficulties such as staff and accommodation shortages would be eased, if not solved. It is worth

observing, however, that even the Juilliard, with its vastly superior resources, produces only a handful of international soloists in a decade. Students there may see their chosen star teacher only once a term, being farmed out to assistants the rest of the time. The results are little different.

Even the best colleges, however, can only respond to the talent offered. The real issue which needs tackling is what happens at a much earlier age. For a string player, the damage may be done by the age of 11. Conversely, wind players may develop only in their teens when they join the numerous youth orchestras and wind-bands which characterize Britain's musical life. That tradition is now at risk. Some schools have no music teaching at all, and the number of peripatetic teachers has been cut dramatically in recent years to meet government spending cuts.

The consequences of such a trend are obvious. As our advanced musical institutions continue to improve their facilities, attract glossy international names to their staff and raise their musical standards, they will be forced to look abroad for talent to fill the places. This irony cannot be lost even on tone-deaf ears.

## Dance

Bösendorfer  
Waltzes  
The Place

If one has to choose between a work of art that has too much in it and one that has too little, the former has to be preferable because at least then we can make our own choices.

*Bösendorfer Waltzes*, which Second Stride are presenting at The Place this week, certainly has no lack of material. Ian Spink, its choreographer and director, says that the Fokine/Suravinsky *Firebird* was his starting-point but, in collaboration with the composer Orlando Gough, the designer Antony McDonald and the cast of six dancers, a great deal more has crept in.

Principally the additions concern the dadaist and surrealist movements in painting and literature. This makes for some mystification and much complexity, probably too much, but it also gives the work spirit.

Each dancer represents an historical character, although I guess few spectators would get beyond identifying Michael Popper as Dali (his account of meeting Freud and presenting him with a treatise on paranoia is hilarious). It does not matter; what they say affords all the information actually needed. And say it they do, at great length to start with: the work is 20 minutes on its way before any music or dancing starts, although there have been some ritual actions, unfolding maps, displaying posters, removing shoes, putting arms in a sling.

The music begins with two pianists, David Owen and Lucy Wilson, revealed at grand pianos hidden under big cloth dolls' houses. At this

point, and at least sometimes thereafter, Gough takes tiny phrases from Stravinsky as the basis of systems music, built on repetitions and transformations - a favourite device of Spink's choreography too. The pianos are apparently supplemented by a pre-recorded tape, and because Stravinsky used four pianos in *Les Noces* we have two other instruments on stage, uprights, which Philippe Graudon and Popper sometimes play.

From this point on the dancers also represent characters or incidents from *The Firebird*, again with Fokine's choreography sometimes quoted and developed systematically. At one point we have two female firebirds and one male flickering between tiny repeated patterns of dance; at another Graudon and Michael Smith both represent Ivan struggling in the power of Popper and Ikky Mass as Koshchei.

The kiss recurs over and over and once leads to tumultuous mutual seduction; the marriage occurs. Magritte-style, faces invisible, beneath a hammer and a sickle. The magic egg is another image that recurs all through, more realistic but finally thrilling. Add a gynaeological couch that is also a dining table, replete with the cast, red and white feathers, a stage full of apples rolled thunderously from buckets, photographs of Russian politicians, fireworks, and lighting structures pushed around, spread this over 110 minutes without an intermission, and I think you have too much. And yet *Bösendorfer Waltzes* is never boring, and at moments it is entirely magical in mood and effect.

John Percival

Theatre  
Music to obliterate thoughtJeanne  
Sadler's Wells

From the time of *Godspell*, rock and religion have regularly come together in a misalliance zealously promoted by the church. Whether or not it serves to spread the faith, rock certainly has the effect of putting the mind to sleep: a process illustrated with unusual clarity in Shirie Roden's rock opera on Joan of Arc, now transferred from the Birmingham Rep to the reprieved Sadler's Wells.

Miss Roden has taken her outline from Shaw's *Saint Joan*, that cathedral to human scepticism. Her libretto even preserves some of the play's acid court satire and ecclesiastical argument; but it is labour thrown away once the music gets going.

Of its kind, the music strikes me as extremely accomplished. It is mainly assembled from sharp little melodic patterns which are diversified to carry an entire scene, and take on contrasting emotional colour. The sound is sometimes sweet, often brutal; but the main thing is that it depends on interminable repetition. It can evoke

atmosphere and primary feelings but, when decanted over the stage like hot chocolate sauce, it obliterates character and thought.

Miss Roden demonstrates this herself when, late in the show, she introduces her only comic number, in which two facetious guards try to persuade the armour-plated heroine to put on a dress. The effect is excruciating.

Otherwise the book falls obediently into line, presenting Joan as an iconic figure, erect in a gleaming breastplate amid swirling smoke, and Alencon (Malcolm Roberts) as an idealized blond warrior as apt to fall on his knees as to wield a sword. The one character who does survive is the Dauphin (Brett Forrest), who begins as a Slavian booby but, once in power, leads a rabble-rousing chorus calling for the destruction of the girl who is no longer of any use to him.

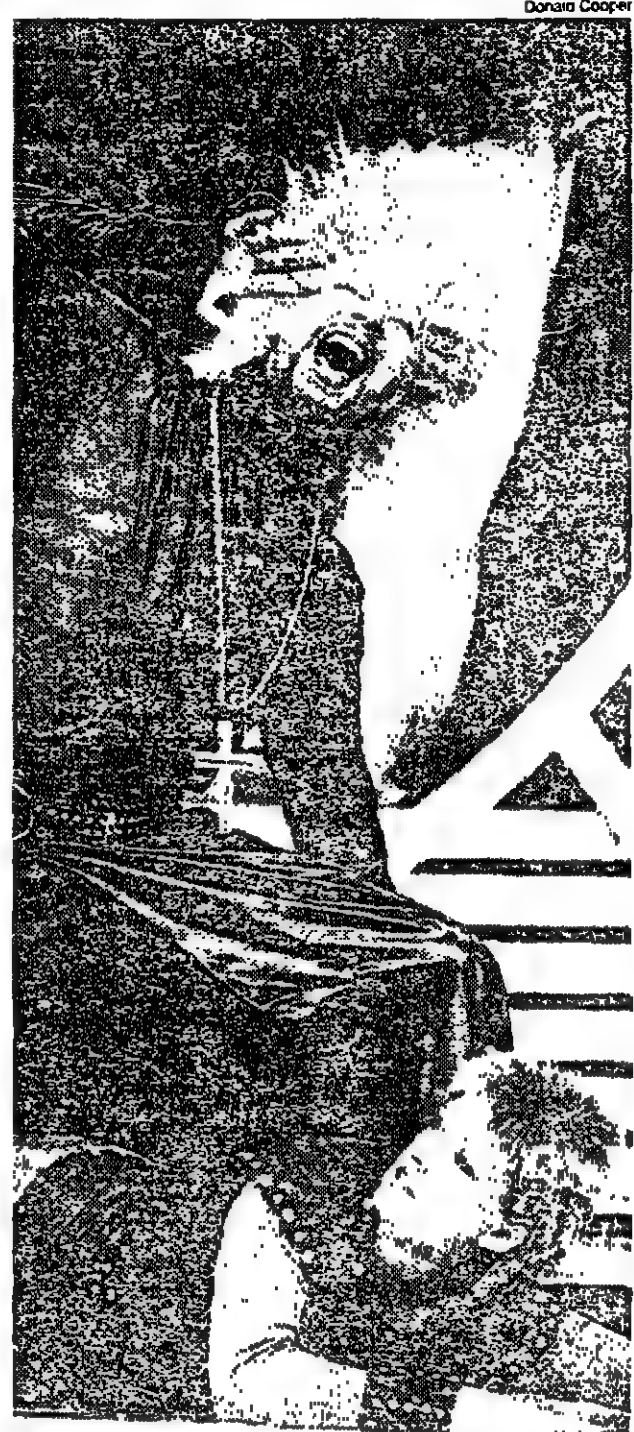
The main storytelling novelty is the appearance of Joan's three voices - Saints Catherine, Margaret and Michael - who supervise the action from a heavenly bridge over the stage in the likeness of three Elysian Supremes in skin-tight silver boiler-suits. It sounds ridiculous, but it is

justified by their part in the fable. If music dramatizes anything in this show, it is the sight of these angelic swimmers urging their trusting protégée on to the next suicidal adventure.

"Now is the time" is their slogan, first catapulting Joan from the village to the court, and then into the siege of Orleans: finally, in the show's masterstroke, they materialize in her cell and joyously tell her that now is the time to go up in smoke. This being a rock opera, it is left to the spectator to decide whether she is entering paradise or whether the Inquisition was spot on in considering she had been misled by demons.

Bill Kenwright's production (with choreography by Anthony van Laasi) is well drilled, well lit and thunderously well amplified. Of individual voices, Rebecca Storm has the well-placed sexless purity of a boy chorister, and Peter Straker comes close to obliterating the memory of Shaw's Cauchon in his apparition of a gibbering witch-doctor with wild upswept hair and accusations rising to an unearthly voodoo falsetto.

Irving Wardle



Gibbering witch-doctor with a heroine of sexless purity: Peter Straker and Rebecca Storm in *Jeanne*

Opera  
Soprano sensationLucia di  
Lammermoor  
City Theatre, Basle

Basle is the place to catch the Lucia of the rising generation. Eva Lind, born in Innsbruck and now with the Vienna State Opera, has just turned 20. Basle had the wit to engage her to sing her first *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and she has responded to this trust by giving the kind of performance that has had the hot-shot agents, and one or two of the conductors who really do take the trouble to cast their own performances, descending on this small Swiss city, which has got into the habit of taking a chance with the new.

Opportunities of hearing a Lucia with a coloratura soprano carrying all the freshness of extreme youth are rare: even Sutherland and that famous February night over a quarter of a century ago had tackled close on a dozen heavy-weight roles before turning to Lucia. Freshness is exactly what Lind's voice possesses, the type of sound the Victorians might perhaps have heard in the days of the teenage diva. With it go extreme musical intelligence, blonde good looks and a slim, tall frame that allows her to skitter across the surface of the stage.

The voice does not have the wistful shades for the Gothic dreams of "Regnava nel silenzio", but once Edgardo has entered the performance takes off. There is no glassiness in the coloratura, no hard edge. She soared over the orchestra in the sextet and sounded even better in the Mad Scene, where one perfectly controlled instrument (the voice) answers another (the flute) in charting poor Lucy's ravings. It comes as no great surprise that Eva Lind will be Adele in the new *Fledermaus* EMI are planning with Domingo conducting, and that Abbado has cast her as Oscar in the forthcoming *Ballo at the Vienna State Opera*.

Jean-Claude Auvray, a favourite producer at Basle, takes his cue in part from Lucia's imaginings by the Ravenswood fountain. He begins by having an audience of stern Victorians, dressed severely in black, assemble for a spa concert in a Malvern or a Buxton. Enter the soprano with her music to sing, presumably, Lucia and she immediately falls under the spell of the heroine, with her brief life and her crazed death.

The device for a few moments looked clumsy, but then began to work its own magic in Mario Garbuglia's elegant winter garden set.



Eva Lind: one perfectly controlled instrument for the Mad Scene

complete with metal gallery and spiral staircase. The opera is played in the black and white of which dreams are made, transferring Lucia out of Scott's world of tam-o-shanters and sporrans into one closer to Wilkie Collins's spectres and women in white. And spectres were the stock-in-trade of Donizetti and his librettist Cammarano in this instance. This highly imaginative staging was clearly devised as a vehicle for Eva Lind, whose fleetness of movement especially in full song would defeat many another soprano.

The best of her colleagues was Emilio Fath, given a club-foot as the villainous Enrico and a facial make-up that made him a Donizetti double. His baritone lacked a true legato but it has strength and burnished dark colouring. The Edgardo, Eduardo Villa, offered a cruder performance both vocally and dramatically, and sounded more suited to roles like Calaf. For obscure reasons Edgardo's aria from the final scene, "Fra poco a me ricovero", which showed Villa at his best, was placed at the beginning of Act II, before the often-cut encounter of Enrico

and his arch-enemy in the tower of Wolfegg. The Raimondo sounded tired and out of voice.

The combination of Lind and Auvray could have been even more effective with a conductor tuned to Donizetti. Baldo Podic's handling of the orchestra was too often insensitive and over-sarid.

Future performances are on March 15 and 31, April 6 and 13, May 2, 4 and 14, and June 20. Be warned: tickets are hard to come by.

John Higgins

The Rising of the  
Moon  
Guildhall School

Of all the things that might have been created at the end of the 1960s, an operatic romantic comedy must be one of the least likely, which is why the neglect of Nicholas Maw's *The Rising of the Moon*, after the performances at Glyndebourne for which it was commissioned, did not appear so very shameful. The piece simply had to be unworkable. But a glowing, good-humoured and richly pleasurable revival at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama has proved that it is not at all. And it surely cannot be that anyone has been put off by the

curtain-line wish of one of the characters, that the rest of the British army might depart from Irish shores with the 31st Royal Lancers. After all, this is 1875.

Or is it? The strength of the opera is inseparable from its ambiguity about date - a kind of ambiguity for which Strauss provides the nearest model. There is a sumptuous tide of waltzing that underlies a good bit of the score, and some of the more overtly comic numbers, such as the Irish scherzo in the last act, are in a straightforward tonal style. But the music also knows about Berg and about Britten, without being bowled over by them, and it uses their cynicism not to attack its own romantic heart but curiously to collude. If Maw were presented with a more complex libretto, he might have

it in him to produce another *Rosenkavalier*.

This is not to discount Beverley Cross's achievement in his words for the present opera. The libretto has some good jokes, and its plotting is skilful: a new young officer is given a night in which to prove his manhood with three ladies of his own choice, and accomplishes the task by cuckolding the colonel, his adjutant (so it seems) and a visiting Prussian major. Moreover, the action provides for an almost emblematic meeting of the romantic and the cynical in the relationship between the resilient hero, Beaumont, and the Prussian major's wife, He. starchy-eyed, is forced to treat sexual conquest as a stunt: she has no illusions, but cherishes a belief that there is more to love than lust.

These two are the most fully developed roles, in the words and in the music, and they are sung here with a just mixture of smiles and pathos, yet with unfailing lyricism, by Joseph Cornwell and Rachael Hall-awell. The others are mostly character parts: Roisin McGibbon sings with winning freshness and a tasty brogue as Cathleen, Robert Poulton properly blusters as the colonel and Sarah Pring as his wife is rightly formidable yet malleable to a certain touch. The orchestral playing is magnificent under Stephen Barlow, and Patrick Libby is responsible for the production being so happy.

There are further performances tonight and with a different cast, tomorrow.

Paul Griffiths

RPO/Litton  
Festival Hall

A few months ago in these columns I found myself reviewing the same orchestra under the same conductor, in the accompaniment of the same piano concerto - Chopin's No 2 in F minor. It is nice to be able to report that, on this occasion, the Royal Philharmonic's approach to this supposedly dull stuff was just as fresh and alert as before.

But this is not to say that one's attention was anything other than totally held by the soloist, Bernard Ascoli. His identification with the piano part was so complete that it was as if he had somehow stepped inside the music, not so much addressing it from the outside as speaking to it from within. The first movement's gentle second-subject tune found a perfect balance between naturalness and sophistication, and the ornamentation in the Larghetto was exquisitely shaded without ever losing a sense of direction. The finale was a remarkable exhibition: I have never heard its dancing cascades of notes sound less like trivial decoration and more like musical sense, with consistently beautiful piano tone even in the trickiest passages.

Andrew Litton did not quite let the wonderfully spacious lyrical paragraphs of Rachmaninov's Second Symphony breathe as easily as they want to - the introduction, for instance, did not grow convincingly from its shadowy

## Concert

beginnings - and he also had some curious ideas about orchestral balance (rampant horns throughout). But he had a knack of making things happen. The big climax to the first movement's development section was thrillingly brought off; and, similarly, his view of the build-up towards the crowning peroration of the entire work was differently conceived from what we usually hear, and to my mind entirely right.

Both here and earlier, in the *Force of Destiny* Overture, the RPO were in their usual lively form, the strings especially relishing some of Verdi's niftier passages.

Malcolm Hayes

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The Commission, which has a central role in relation to museums and galleries throughout the United Kingdom, has recently been expanded to take on a number of new functions and will shortly be incorporated under a Royal Charter.

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For application form and further details please contact:

Miss Jane Harvey  
Museums and Galleries Commission  
2 Carlton Gardens  
London SW1Y 5AA  
(Telephone: 01-930 5808)

Closing date: Monday 17th March, 1986.

## BANGOR ENTERPRISE CENTRE MANAGER

With the aim of encouraging growth of high technology enterprises in the area, the Centre, which comprises a number of small high-quality well-serviced units, is being built by Gwynedd County Council and Arfon Borough Council to house small enterprises in their earliest stage of development. The Centre is sited on the campus of University College of North Wales so that occupants can benefit from the expertise and facilities available within the College.

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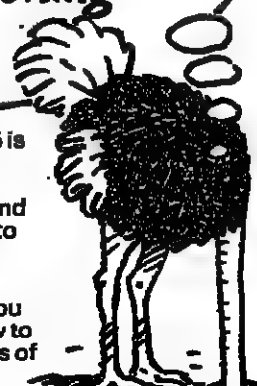
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My client specialises in the design and manufacture of special purpose electronic test equipment. You will be responsible for each project from the original technical negotiations and design, to installation. Switch mode power supply engineering experience is essential as is familiarity with MOD requirements. An excellent salary package is available for the right candidate. An attractive basic salary is augmented by a company car, commission, expenses, pension, BUPA and free life insurance schemes. Apply in writing quoting reference SC/384, stating age, qualifications, experience and present salary to: RF Cunningham, HR Consultants/Recruiting Manager, Ethicon Limited, PO Box 408, Bankhead Avenue, Edinburgh EH11 4HE.

## £20,000 + P.A. RETAIL PHARMACY - AGENTS

A British company with a well established existing product range in O.T.C. medicine and other fast moving consumer pharmacy brands, requires agents to represent them in the following geographical areas: West/Central London; North East UK and North West UK. Genuine potential income of £20,000 + p.a. reply in first instance by phoning:

Peter Hughes  
Tridas Sales & Marketing Consultants Ltd  
Recruitment Division on:  
Marlow (06284) 75204

## INTERIOR DECORATING SHOP

With potential for growth and improvement requires self motivated manager to take over all aspects of running the business. Excellent opportunities for a long term career.

Please send full CV to BOX C58.

## Export Sales Executive - Scandinavia Auto Accessories

£19,000

North London based

We are brand leaders in the motor accessory field with a reputation for quality, innovation and strong technical support. Over half our production is exported. Our strategy is projected on a market by market approach and we now seek to appoint an executive to be responsible for OE and the aftermarket in Scandinavia. Candidates will need to have experience in export sales to mass merchandisers and the motor industry and will have contributed to market and product strategy. Business command of a Scandinavian language is required as is high stamina and perseverance. It is anticipated that the successful applicant will live within commuting distance of our base in Tottenham, North London. A basic salary of £13,000 will be supplemented by a performance related bonus designed to increase this figure by 50%. Benefits include company car and after qualifying period, assistance with healthcare, retirement benefits and free life assurance. Please write with career details to: F G Cordery, Personnel Manager, Cannon Rubber Ltd, Ashley Road, London N17. Tel: (01) 808 6261.

## Mechanical Engineers

Wiltshire

Honeywell Aerospace and Defence continue to expand, providing high technology solutions for the needs of the international aerospace and defence industries. This success has created the need for high-calibre engineers with good communication and problem solving skills in a systems engineering environment to strengthen the existing mechanical engineering team.

### Principal Mechanical Engineer

Reporting to, and deputising for, the Chief Mechanical Engineer, he or she will lead the mechanical engineering team, providing broad-based engineering guidance and taking the lead role during design and development. Preparation of proposals, costings, overall programme management and customer liaison are also essential elements of this key position. The successful candidate will have at least ten years' practical design development experience, with a minimum of five years' in aerospace and defence, and three years' in a project or team leadership role.

### Project Engineers

As part of the mechanical engineering team, Project Engineers supervise specific projects, controlling technical, financial and time-scale aspects, and providing input to project proposals. Liaison with QA, production and the customer is an important factor in the formulation of specifications and cost-effective designs. Successful applicants will have at least five years' practical design and development experience, plus a minimum of three years' project involvement in aerospace and defence.

Ideal candidates for all positions will be Chartered Engineers with a degree or FdEng in mechanical engineering. Based at Corsham in Wiltshire, in attractive countryside close to Bath, Bristol and the Cotswolds, these positions carry excellent salaries and benefits, with relocation packages where applicable. Applicants should write enclosing full career and salary details to: Louise Overy, Personnel Officer, Honeywell Aerospace and Defence, Leasfield Trading Estate, Corsham. Together, we can find the answers.

**Honeywell**

## RPG Analyst Programmer

£12,000 + relocation

Norwich

Heatrex Sadia, part of Valor plc, is the country's leading manufacturer of quality electric water heaters and showers. Our plans for expansion and improvement recognise the essential contribution of computer systems to many areas of our activities. We currently have an IBM System 38 Model 18 running a variety of manufacturing and financial systems, linked to other locations. We wish to recruit an Analyst Programmer with responsibility to our Computer Services Manager for the development of key projects. A good understanding of RPG and familiarity with IBM System 38 is essential. Candidates should combine experience of manufacturing systems with knowledge of MAAPICS training provided if necessary. Interested? Please write to: Geoff Searley on (0603) 45494 during normal working hours or on (0603) 714604 at any other reasonable time. Alternatively send full cv to: Heatrex Sadia Heating Limited, Hurricane Way, Norwich NR6 6EA.

## Instrument Engineer

Attractive salary + car

Moore Barrett & Redwood Ltd, part of the successful international SGS Group, now require an Instrument Engineer for assignment overseas. Following a six month training course in specialised measurement your responsibilities will include field work, business development, staff training and project profitability. Candidates should be graduates aged 28-40, with at least three years' experience, preferably gained overseas in petroleum measurement. Send full cv to: Roger Horrox, Personnel Manager, Moore Barrett & Redwood Ltd, Roscliffe Road, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral L65 3AS, or tel: (051) 355 4931 for an application form.

**SGS**

## Metal Marketing Executive

£10,500-£11,500 + benefits C London based

The sales organisation of a major Canadian mining company is seeking a graduate to train for and fill an important position within a marketing department. Working in a small team under the supervision of a Marketing Director, you will be involved in contract administration, production scheduling, shipping arrangements, and will gradually increase contact with customers throughout Europe. Aged in your early 20's you will have good communication skills, a command of German and will have had some commercial experience. Career progression would involve regular travel within Europe, where you would be dealing with clients at a senior level. In return we offer a starting salary of £10,500-£11,500, BUPA after a qualifying period and a pre-graduate working environment. Send full cv to: Richard Miller, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

## JOB HUNTERS

For a free job hunting information pack and weekly details on the recruitment market place including over 450 new jobs, please telephone (01) 208 6390 or write to: PER, 100 Finsbury House, 2-4 Finsbury Gate, Shoreditch N1 2JH. For all problems on this programme, applications are sent from 1000 am and onwards.

## Project Engineer

To £16,000

Portsmouth

Delta Technical Services Ltd is a growing company engaged in the design, manufacture and supply of advanced mini micro computer based systems. Our products include hydraulic refuelling equipment, telemetry, and process control systems. Continuing expansion has generated a new position as Project Engineer. The successful candidate will be required to provide technical back-up to sales and marketing, take overall responsibility for projects from initial concept to handover, including technical definition, budgeting control and customer liaison. Proven project control and technical supervisory skills are essential and applicants are required to have an honours degree and several years relevant experience. Candidates should telephone for an application form or apply in writing to: Ruth Heath, Delta Technical Services Limited, Asper House, Airport Service Road, Portsmouth PO3 5RA. Telephone (0705) 697321.

## Sales Engineer

Specialist Materials

£12,000 + car + benefits

UK

We are a successful, expanding UK electronics company supplying specialist materials to electronic tube, vacuum and semiconductor manufacturers. To boost future success we seek someone with detailed knowledge of refractory metals and ceramics, precision rolled machined products, assemblies, components and other related areas to service and increase our client base. HNC degree level qualification useful, not essential, but flair for customer liaison is most important. Send full cv to: Linda Jones, Sales Manager, Walmore Electronics, Laser House, 132-140 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7LE.

## Sales Representative

Attractive salary + car

North West

Part of the successful Tarmac Group, Tarmac Roadstone Ltd is a market leader in the quarrying and road surfacing industry. Based at Chelford, you will effectively service existing customers and develop new business in a demanding but interesting sales environment. Ambitious and self motivated you must have selling ability and a high degree of initiative. Experience of selling sand and gravel within the construction industry would be advantageous. Large company fringe benefits can be expected. Please send full cv (with salary details) to: Miss C M Lovegrove, Personnel Officer, Tarmac Roadstone Ltd, Western, Whitehall House, Whitehall Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3LE. Tel: (021) 550 4792.

## Quarries Products

## Quotations Manager

£12,000

Middlesex

Operating in a complex and demanding business environment my client is a highly successful distributor of electronic T & M and production equipment to Eastern Europe. With a turnover around £10 million, and growing, a Quotations Manager is now required to provide strong technical and commercial support to the systems sales force by compiling quotations and maintaining buy and sell price data. A good communicator, with a sound technical grasp of electronic systems, you should also understand the factors involved in capital equipment sales. Contact: Magnus Henderson, PER, 12A Commercial Way, Woking, Surrey GU21 1HG. Tel: (04862) 20003.

## Electrical Engineer

Negotiable salary

South Lakeland

The papermill of Henry Cooke Limited, a subsidiary of J Bibby & Sons plc is midway between Kendal and Lancaster on the edge of the Lake District National Park. For a number of years, the company has followed a policy of continually upgrading the mill with an average annual capital budget in excess of £1 million. The equipment at the mill ranges from instrumentation to (50HP DC and 300 HP AC drives and a large distribution system. We wish to appoint an electrical engineer who will be responsible to the Engineering Manager both for routine maintenance and for the installation of new equipment including electronic instrumentation and process control. Candidates for this position must have at least HND with extensive industrial experience, ideally with modern process control systems and instrumentation. In addition to an attractive remuneration package, relocation expenses will be paid where appropriate. If you are looking for a responsible position which would give opportunities to gain broad experience, please send your cv explaining why you believe that you can make a contribution to the engineering work of the mill to: Graham Williams, Divisional Personnel Manager, J Bibby & Sons plc, Crossfield, Norwich St, Rochdale OL11 1LP.

**ADMINISTRATION MANAGERS**

## Administration Managers

Nationwide

Mecca Entertainment, leaders in the rapidly expanding leisure market, are seeking Administration Managers to play a major part in the management and future development of some of their most exciting entertainment venues. Each is a significant role within a new management structure, involving the control of all aspects of administration and costs, as well as providing advice and guidance on financial planning, forecasting and staffing levels, and supervising the implementation of micro-computer systems. If you're young, energetic and enterprising, and you can combine a background in financial administration with a formal accountancy training, here's your opportunity to expand into general management within a fast-moving and successful organisation in a role commanding an attractive salary together with an excellent range of large company benefits. Please write, enclosing comprehensive cv to: Joanna Farrelly, Personnel and Training Manager, Mecca Entertainment, 230 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6.

**Mecca Entertainment**

## Senior VAT Consultants

Salary up to £25,000 + Car

We have recently formed an International Trade Group, an experienced team of tax partners and consultants, which provides integrated tax services to clients in the fields of VAT, Customs & Excise Duties, and international and US Expatriate taxation. This exciting development within a large international accountancy practice has created further challenging career opportunities for senior VAT specialists.

You should have either HM Customs & Excise training and experience, at HE0 or SE0 grade, or an accountancy or legal qualification. Successful candidates will have already gained substantial VAT experience, wide practical knowledge of the relevant legislation and must have the ability to communicate with senior management. You will be responsible for consultancy assignments for clients ranging from large international companies to small businesses. You will be expected to liaise extensively with other parts of the PW practice and to demonstrate initiative and a keen sense of business awareness.

Candidates, likely to be aged about 30, will be offered an attractive salary, a car and other benefits. Prospects for further promotion are excellent. The positions are based in London and, where appropriate, relocation expenses will be paid.

Please write, in confidence, with detailed CV to:

John R Townend,  
Price Waterhouse,  
Southwark Towers,  
32 London Bridge Street,  
London SE1 9SY

**CAREERS IN VAT**



**Price Waterhouse**



# GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

## Outstanding Systems Professionals for IT Strategy Work

A.T. Kearney is one of the leading international management consulting firms and is judged by many people to be THE strategic IT consultants. Our work in this area is essentially business based and we aim to help our clients to secure a competitive advantage by being ahead of the field in their use of information technology.

We are looking for exceptional young managers or consultants to join our IT Strategy Group. They must have a successful record of developing and implementing management systems in complex and challenging environments.

Successful applicants will have most of the following attributes.

- Experience in IT management.
- Demonstrable track record in IT development/implementation.
- Good academic record and a numerate degree.
- Understanding of business.
- Willingness to contribute to the growth of the Firm.
- Aged between 28 and 35.

If you meet our exacting requirements, the remuneration package should not be a problem. If you want to link your success with ours, please contact:

Glye Hodson, Director, A.T. Kearney Limited,  
134 Piccadilly, London W1V 9FJ. Telephone 01-499 7181.

**AT KEARNEY**

## Accountants for Management Consultancy

London

Salary to £25,000 + car

We are one of the leading international management consultancies; we are now looking for further first class consultants and analysts for our financial management practice in the UK and overseas.

For consultant positions, successful candidates will be qualified accountants aged 28 to 35, with an honours degree, who can demonstrate proven achievement in industry or commerce. Experience must include responsibility for systems development as well as line management in the finance function. Personal qualities will include the ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing.

For analyst positions we are interested in hearing from less experienced people over 26 who otherwise meet the profile indicated above.

We offer outstanding opportunities to broaden your experience in a wide

variety of industries and to work with stimulating colleagues from a number of disciplines. There are excellent opportunities for promotion within Peat Marwick for those who wish to pursue a career in consultancy. Of particular interest to us at the moment are people with experience of the manufacturing, retail, distribution and oil industries, or of treasury management.

If you are interested in joining our London office and working with us in the UK or overseas, please write in confidence, enclosing a brief summary of your qualifications and experience, and quoting reference A/MA/86, to Mike Cony at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD.

**PEAT MARWICK**

## BBC APPOINTMENTS

### TELEVISION REPORTER

Southampton  
£14,786 - £20,043\*\*

We now need a Reporter to join our team covering the South of England. Our main nightly output is *South Today* and you will also cover news stories in the area for the *Six O'Clock News*, the *Nine O'Clock News* and *Breakfast Time*.

You will need to be a journalist with newspaper or broadcasting experience - current driving licence essential. Initially one year contract. (Ref. 7235/1)

### NEWS PRODUCERS

Radio WM  
(Based Birmingham)  
Radio Lancashire  
(Based Blackburn)  
£9,916 - £14,024\*\*

Opportunities with two leading BBC Local Radio stations: BBC Radio WM, which serves the West Midlands, one of the busiest news areas in the country, and BBC Radio Lancashire.

Joining the newsroom teams working primarily on the preparation and production of the stations' news output and current affairs programmes, you will be involved in newsreading, interviewing and reporting. In addition, you may also produce feature programmes and take part in announcing duties.

For both positions, you will need journalistic experience at sub-editor or reporter level and a good microphone voice - current driving licence essential.

Radio WM (Birmingham) (Ref. 9283/T)  
Radio Lancashire (Blackburn) (Ref. 9313/T)

We are an equal opportunities employer

\*\* Plus allowance of £371 p.a.  
Relocation expenses considered for permanent posts.  
Contact us immediately for application form (quote appropriate ref and enclose s.a.e.) BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA.  
Tel. 01-922 5125.

## RESEARCH MANAGER EXECUTIVE SEARCH

Established 22 years ago, Egon Zehnder is a leading international firm with 22 offices in 16 countries. Research plays a vital part in the functions of the London office. Working with nine consultants, the Research Manager will be responsible for a forward-thinking department which has a reputation for the quality of its results in a demanding and fast paced environment.

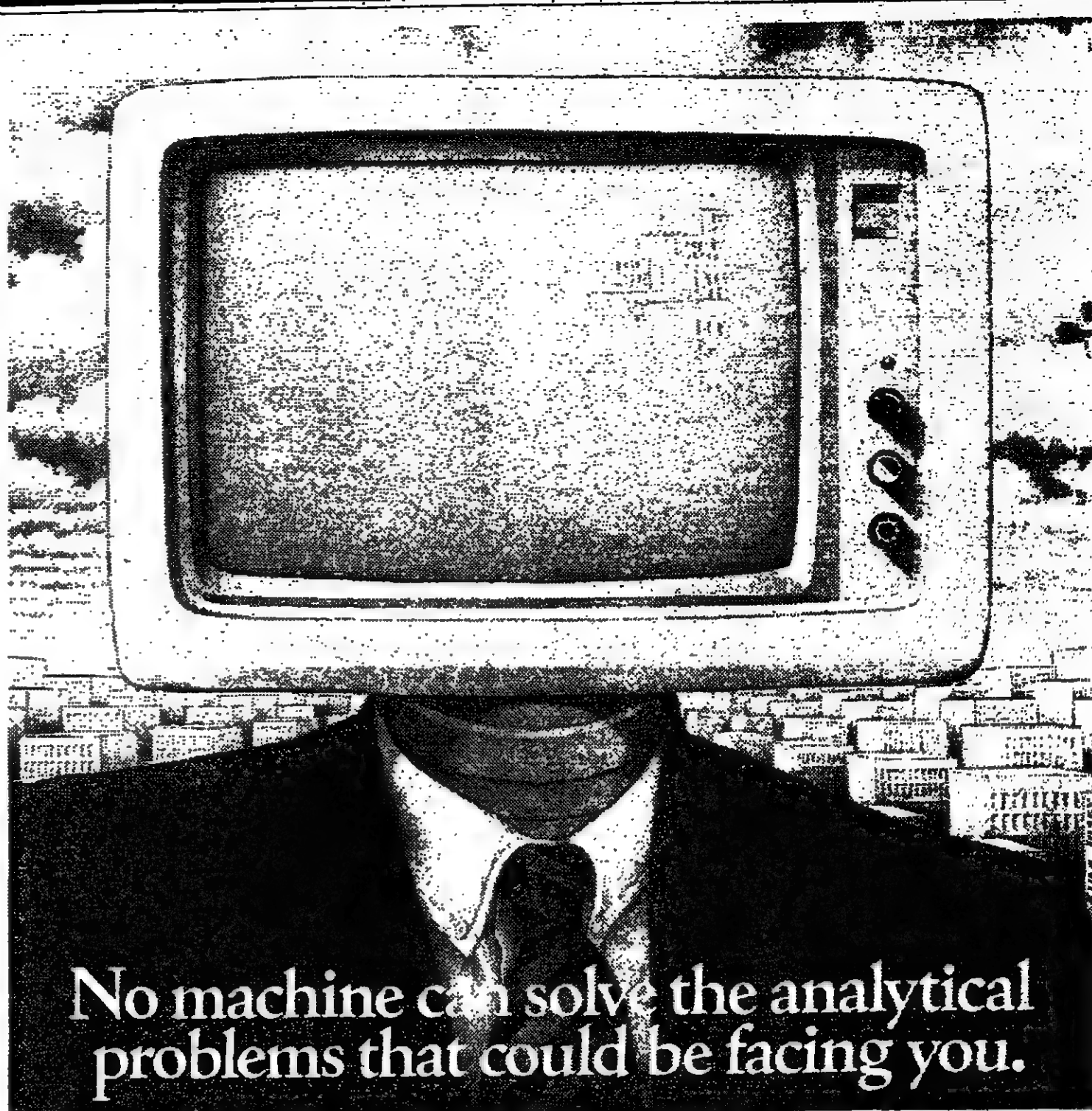
Our present Research Manager is leaving at the end of April after five years with the firm. We consider this appointment to be of prime importance as it is an integral part of all the services we provide. The principal responsibility is to direct the research in support of individual search

assignments, as well as the international merger and acquisitions practice.

Several years' experience in a similar management consultancy is essential, though other relevant backgrounds could be considered. A knowledge of personal computer systems, preferably IBM, is required.

The working environment is very stimulating and the remuneration would be highly attractive to appropriately qualified candidates. Please telephone the Managing Partner on 01-930 9311 (office hours) or write in complete confidence to Egon Zehnder International, 87 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6JD.

Egon Zehnder International



No machine can solve the analytical problems that could be facing you.

You may have some pre-conceived ideas that working in the financial sector would be uninspiring or unchallenging.

Let us tell you now, what we at Citicorp Investment Bank's Technology Division - IPS work on, is very much to the contrary. As pioneers in the banking software market, we need only describe an example to show exactly what we mean.

### NUMBER ONE IN EURONOTES

Since the inception of the Euronote, Citicorp has been arranging multi-billion dollar transactions for major corporations, state agencies and Governments in this rapidly expanding market. Basically, Euronotes are innovative forms of short term securities.

When the market started to really take off two years ago, Citicorp saw a unique opportunity for technology to lend a hand.

We quickly defined an astonishingly sophisticated software system, which could process bids from large numbers of organisations enabling us to complete a transaction within hours rather than days.

Technology helped build our reputation for speed and precision. In October last year Euronote magazine voted Citicorp the most professional arranger of Euronotes. By the end of the year we were market leader.

But the point is that our pre-eminence depends to a large extent on the software systems we develop to support this market.

### WHO EXACTLY ARE WE AFTER?

To this end we need people who can analyse our clients' requirements and identify scope for improvement, but also communicate these to our systems staff who can then develop software.

We are looking for more such analytical minds. Men and women, probably from the financial world, who must have evidence of acute analytical experience and some knowledge of computer software principles.

Depending on experience, expertise and level of responsibility, salary packages will range from £20,000 to £30,000 or more. Benefits will include low cost mortgage, non-contributory pension, personal loan and car.

To give you a detailed description of the job and experience we need, we have prepared an information folder which you can receive by ringing 01-935 9461. Or, if you prefer, send a summary of analytical experience to C.P. Moss, IPS Division, Citicorp Investment Bank Ltd, 335 Strand, PO Box 78, London WC2R 8HB.

Citicorp Investment Bank. We're doing more in financial computing than you'd ever imagine.

**CITICORP INVESTMENT BANK**

## ENGINEERING MANAGER

Barclays Bank PLC require a Chartered Engineer to take up the post of Engineering Manager in its Property Services Department - South Regional Office, based in Twyford.

The successful applicant will be a corporate member of one of the major engineering institutions. Ideally, they will have served an engineering apprenticeship followed by design experience, operation and maintenance of building engineering services coupled with managerial expertise.

The duties will include conceptual design of the engineering content of major projects and detail design of smaller ones, the vetting of engineering designs and drawings prepared by others, briefing of consultants, engineering project management and control of subordinate staff engaged in the operation and maintenance of engineering services in a group of buildings for which the job holder will hold overall responsibility.

Salary will commence at £16,052 per annum and is subject to annual review. Additionally, an annual bonus is payable and there is a wide range of benefits including non-contributory pension scheme, profit sharing and a special housing loan facilities scheme, after a qualifying period.

Application, giving details of qualifications and experience, should be made to:

Mr P W Cooper  
Head of Personnel and  
Administration  
Property Services Department  
Barclays Bank PLC  
Britannia House  
16/17 Old Bailey  
LONDON EC4M 7DN

**BARCLAYS**

## ROYAL STABLES

Rial Omani 8,436 p.a.  
Married Status

\* A prestigious Government organisation in an attractive Gulf location requires the following staff. Both positions carry the rank of Captain.

**Horsemaster and Riding Instructor**  
Ideally aged 30-50 and holding BHS or equivalent minimum, applicants must have at least 10 years experience in a similar capacity. This position requires a thorough knowledge of horse and stable management and the ability to take charge of a large number of horses. Responsibilities include the breaking and training of horses and the instruction of riders of varying ages to a very high standard of horsemanship.

**Ceremonial Officer**  
Candidates should be aged 30-50 and possess at least 10 years experience of ceremonial duties, ideally gained in a position of command within a military establishment. The successful applicant must demonstrate a proven record in all aspects of horse and stable management and have the ability to take charge of a large number of horses and train them and their riders to a high standard for ceremonial duties.

\* Both positions offer a competitive tax free salary and highly attractive benefits including: free furnished accommodation, transport provided for official use, married status after a probationary period of 3 months, free medical care and 60 days paid leave per annum.

\* Please telephone Tom Jeffries or write in strict confidence to the address below quoting reference PA954/TT.

### Asbrite Limited

Abeyfield House, 180-192 Dorset Lane,  
Portsmouth, Hampshire PO6 1AA, England.  
Telephone: Portsmouth 501 0100 (4 lines)  
Telex: 279328 Asbrite G.  
Recruitment Consultants - UK & Overseas



**GRADUATES or good 'A' levels** £10-12K

We work with prestigious companies who seek young and dynamic sales executives. You must be under 30 with at least 6 months experience in a commercial role-sales or field sales environment. Rewards include a high basic salary plus commission plus car. First class training and career development prospects.

For immediate consideration call or send C.V. to:  
Lindsey Hodge or  
Bernadette Laffey.

**SALES & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS**  
7 PRINCES STREET, W1 1 01-920 7202

## THE MARINE SOCIETY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The Marine Society, founded in 1784, a diverse and active Charity, operates a library service for merchant ships, and correspondence courses and general advice for professional seafarers. It also offers advice to young persons on sea careers, and supports maritime youth organisations. The society now wishes to appoint an Administrative Officer who will be responsible to the General Secretary for the accounting and administration services of the Society. The ideal candidate will be between 25 and 45 years of age, have an accountancy qualification or considerable accountancy experience, previous service in the Royal Merchant Navy or in a maritime organisation, and be willing to accept responsibility. The right person will find the work of the Society stimulating and well worthwhile.

Salary is negotiable in the region of £12,000 p.a. and will be reviewed annually. There is a supplementary voluntary pension scheme.

If you are interested, please telephone or write to:

The Secretary  
THE MARINE SOCIETY  
202 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7JW  
(Tel. 01-361 9535)

The closing date for applications is 31st March, 1986.

## GROUP COMPANY SECRETARY LONDONc £19,000 + CAR

Brent Walker Holdings, a well-established widely based PLC in the leisure industry, invites applications from high calibre Chartered Secretaries with proven experience in a fast moving commercial environment.

Reporting to Group Managing Director accountability will be for all legal and secretarial matters, pensions and insurance. Opportunity to contribute to the general management of the Group and its subsidiaries.

PLEASE WRITE WITH FULL CAREER DETAILS AND DAY TIME TELEPHONE NUMBER TO:  
WILFRED AQUILINA,  
BRENT WALKER HOLDINGS PLC,  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE HOUSE,  
197 KNIGHTSBRIDGE,  
LONDON, SW7 1RB

Appointments Continue on  
Pages 26, 27 & 28



## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1301.3 (+20.0)

FT-SE 100  
1569.1 (+20.2)

USM (Datastream)  
115.45 (+0.32)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.4540 (-0.0075)

W German mark  
3.2773 (+0.0591)

Trade-weighted  
73.7 (+0.4)

## Tin rescue plan delay

The International Tin Council continued its emergency session late yesterday, with Malaysia reported to be seeking an extension of the midnight deadline for acceptance of the rescue plan. The request was made to the creditor-bankers and brokers of the ITC.

The stumbling block for acceptance of the plan, which involves the creation of a new company to take over the ITC's tin stocks, continues to be the attitude of the three South East Asian producers, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. The EEC signalled its acceptance of the plan, subject to minor modifications, yesterday morning.

## CU recovers

Losses at Commercial Union Assurance fell from £72.8 million to £58.8 million before tax in the year to December 31 1985. Premium income was down from £2.66 billion to £2.31 billion and the dividend is unchanged at 11.8p.

Temps, page 19

## BSR plunge

BSR International's pretax result slumped from a profit of £26.8 million in 1984 to a loss of £5.9 million in 1985. Turnover fell from £402.7 million to £261.8 million. The dividend is unchanged at 2.4p per share.

Temps, page 19

## Profit soars

General Accident Fire & Life lifted profits from £3.9 million to £26.5 million before tax in the year to December 31 1985. Premium income was up from £1.88 billion to £1.90 billion and the final dividend is up from 12p to 14p.

Temps, page 19

## MCD in talks

MCD Group, formerly Trafford Carpets, is in talks which may lead to a merger by way of an offer for MCD. A further announcement is to be made.

## Loan plea

Argentina is almost certain to seek a new International Monetary Fund loan programme to replace the \$1.42 billion special drawing rights standby loan which expires on March 31.

## £10m issue

Glass Glover Group, the food distributor, is raising £10 million by an issue of 10 million 6½ per cent stock, convertible into ordinary shares between 1990 and 2000 on a one-for-three basis.

## Bid response

McKechie Brothers' offer for the whole of the issued share capital of Newman Tonks has been accepted for 876,756 ordinary shares (2 per cent) at the first closing date. The McKechie holds or has received acceptances for 7,526,756 shares (16.9 per cent).

## Dalgety chief

Sir Peter Carey is to become chairman of Dalgety, the international merchants, on July 1, when Mr David Donne resigns. Sir Peter will serve as deputy chairman until then.

## Offer success

Walsams, the specialised instrument maker, received applications for 99.2 per cent of the shares on offer in its rights issue.

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
BTR	448p +15
Cookson	525p +22
Sater	252p +10
Hawley	121p +10
Pearson	496p +23
Comm Union	287p +10
Burgess	194p +12
BSR	113p +20
Unilever	308p +10
Flame Ind	49p +8
VG Inst	388p +12
Walsley-Hughes	532p +16
P&O	525p +19
Alphacore	141p +13
TI	453p +24
Brit Aero	581p +23
MCD	190p +16
L. Ashby	980p up 40
Da la Rue	344p up 10
Countryside Prop	300p up 10
Tops Est	300p +32

FALLS:	
ESCO	219p -15
Indover	1470p -20
Fisons	511p -17
Blagden	108p -8
Midland Bank	479p -8

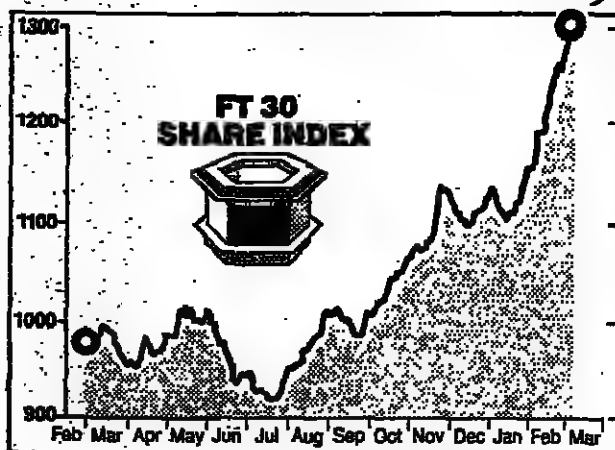
## Mergers and weak oil lift shares to record 1,301.3

By Jeremy Warner  
Business Correspondent

Share prices achieved new records on the stock market yesterday. The FT 30 share index surged past the 1300 mark, rising 21.4 points to an all-time high of 1301.3, though it finished below its best for the day at 1301.3. The wider share indexes, the FT 100 and the FT all share index, also hit new peaks.

Dealers cited the continuing wave of takeover activity in the City, coupled with the boost to company profits that the weak oil price is causing, as the underlying reason for the buoyancy. Hopes that interest rates around the world are headed down reinforced the optimistic mood. In the US, Southwest Bank of St. Louis became the first US bank to cut its prime rate from 9.5 per cent to 9.25 per cent.

Strong demand for leading equities, especially those due to report figures soon, ensured widespread gains. Among leaders, British Telecom gained 6p to 214p, P&O rose 19p to 325p, Glaxo was 17p higher at 992p and Grand Metropolitan finished 7p bet-



ter-off at 420p. There were also widespread gains among second-line shares. Some stockbrokers gave warning that a reaction could soon set in, and cautioned investors against committing any new money to equities for the time being. Mr John Mant of the stockbroker firm James Capel said he thought the market had become too speculative. Wood Mackenzie's Mr Adrian Fitzgerald also said he was fundamentally cautious about prospects for share prices.

rising and we see no underlying reason why prices should fall," Mr Jones said.

Putting the contrary view, James Capel pointed out that new issues, privatizations and known cash calls will tap the market for £5 billion between now and next October.

"This could end the high institutional liquidity which is one underlying cause for the current buoyancy in equities," he said.

US markets continued their erratic largely optimistic trading pattern yesterday on the strength of a widely held belief that West Germany and Japan will soon lower their official lending rates and the US Federal Reserve Board will follow suit.

The dollar opened higher in New York as speculation increased that the Bundesbank would cut its discount rate, by one half point, as early as today. At the same time, the US bond markets were hit by a wave of profit taking following a week of hectic trading and tumbling yields which dropped to 8 per cent on Tuesday on long-term Treasury bonds.

## Mobil has new North Sea find

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

A potentially commercial oil discovery has been made by Mobil 210 miles north-east of Aberdeen, close to its existing Beryl oilfield.

Initial tests from four wells drilled at the reservoir 13,000 feet beneath the seabed produced oil at rates of over 1,000 barrels a day. Further tests are planned to find if the field can be brought into production.

Onshore, BP has applied for planning permission for a £265 million expansion programme for the Wytch Farm oilfield in Dorset which will lift daily output from 3,500 barrels to 60,000 and increase natural gas production.

The expansion, if approved by Dorset County Council, will make Wytch Farm the largest onshore oilfield in Europe, and BP hopes that planning procedures can be completed in time to allow full production by 1989, 10 years after the field first came on stream.

A total of 16 planning applications have been submitted covering changes to the gathering station and access roads. Only one new well site, on Furzey Island in Poole Harbour, will be needed with most of the new wells being drilled at existing sites. BP says that although oil production will increase tenfold, land area required for the extension will be very small.

At present oil from the field, originally discovered and operated by British Gas in partnership with BP before the Government ordered it to sell its oil producing assets, comes from the Bridport reservoir 3,000 feet below the surface. The new wells will pass through that reservoir into the larger undeveloped Sherwood reservoir which has been discovered 5,000 feet below the surface.

A 10-mile pipeline taking oil from the field to a terminal at Southampton has already been proposed by BP and been recommended by Dorset County Council, but is still being considered by Hampshire County Council.

New figures issued by the Department of Energy show that North Sea oil output is still averaging 2.65 million barrels a day - enough to put Britain in fourth place for oil production behind Russia, the United States and Saudi Arabia.

North Sea prices have now dropped to their lowest with levels for April delivery being quoted at \$12.25 a barrel, compared with above \$30 in December. Prices for main grades in the United States have also fallen to close to \$12 a barrel.

## Midland stages strong recovery

By Richard Thomson  
Banking Correspondent

Midland yesterday became the third English clearing bank to report strong profits growth for last year as it began its recovery from heavy losses incurred by Crocker National, the Californian subsidiary it is now selling.

The bank also announced a sweeping reorganization of its operations into four divisions including a new investment banking group.

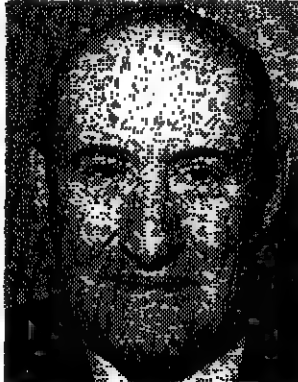
Midland reported an increase in pretax profits from £189 million to £351 million, which is at the upper end of stock market expectations. But while international business improved significantly, it ran into problems in the United Kingdom where provisions for bad debt shot up.

The bank was forced to increase specific provisions in the United Kingdom by £37 million because of two large failures among its corporate customers last year. This helped limit UK profit growth to £308 million from £281 million, an increase of 9.6 per cent.

Lloyds and National Westminster have reported 30 per cent increases in their domestic profits. Midland's bad debts on its personal banking business increased. Officials said this was a worldwide phenomenon but added that there was a disturbing increase in defaults on credit card accounts.

The bank is reorganizing into four main banking divisions: retail, corporate, investment and international. This involves creation of Midland Montagu Investment Banking to handle dealing, broking, investment management and corporate finance activities.

It will be formed by merging Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, with W



Sir Donald Barron: steps to strengthen balance sheet

Greenwell, the stockbroker, and several Midland subsidiaries and departments.

The new division will also include the Group Treasury department, a move designed to strengthen its presence in the capital markets.

The loss on international banking of £146 million in 1984 was turned into a profit of £43 million last year as Crocker returned to profitability with net earnings of \$38 million (£26 million) in 1985.

Midland is selling Crocker to Wells Fargo, the Californian retail bank, for about \$1 billion, but is keeping Crocker's international loan book which more than doubles the English bank's exposure to Mexico.

Announcing the results, Sir Donald Barron, the chairman, said that the bank was taking steps to strengthen its balance sheet.

Capital resources stood at £4 billion, with total provisions for bad debt at £1 billion.

"This, together with benefits to be derived from the sale of Crocker, has placed the group in a position to compete vigorously in a rapidly changing environment," he said.

Midland's dividend remains unchanged at 25.5p.

## Yamani to seek oil price pact

The Saudi Arabian oil minister, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, is to meet representatives of other Gulf oil producing countries this weekend to try to reach an agreement on how to end the oil price crisis.

The countries, members of the Gulf Co-operation Council, hope to draw up an agreement which they can put to the full emergency ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Geneva on March 16.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are full Opec members, but Oman and Bahrain are not.

It is likely that both Oman and Bahrain will attend the meeting between Opec and non-Opec members due to follow the ministerial meeting on March 18.

Other non-Opec oil producing countries likely to attend the Geneva meeting are Mexico, Malaysia and Egypt, but Britain and Norway have made it clear they will not attend and have no intention of interfering with the oil companies' production schedules in the North Sea.

The Gulf Co-operation Council has already said it would prefer Opec to agree new production levels within an overall quota of 16 million barrels a day to bring oil supply into line with world demand.

However, Libya, Iran and Algeria have suggested more drastic measures, including a total halt to oil production to force prices upwards.

## US orders up

January factory orders in the US rose by 0.4 per cent after a revised 2.3 per cent December gain.

## Textile jobs boost for Merseyside

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Up to 300 jobs are expected to be created this year with the arrival on Merseyside of Yungzeikang Garment Manufacturing, one of Hong Kong's largest garment manufacturers.

YGM's decision to come to Britain follows an initiative by Mr Desmond Pitcher, group chief executive at the Littlewoods Organization, which is based at Liverpool and is one of Britain's largest private companies.

YGM is a big supplier to Littlewoods, which has chain stores and mail order interests, and at first a substantial proportion of the Merseyside

production is expected to be taken up by Littlewoods.

The new factory, for which site negotiations are in progress, will produce trousers, shirts and blouses. There will be allowance made for additional expansion and jobs if trade justifies this.

British production is expected to be competitive on price and quality with that in Hong Kong where labour costs are no longer at low levels.

The YGM decision was welcomed by Merseyside County Council especially because of the high unemployment rate in the area.

Littlewoods itself expects to be creating about 2,500 jobs this year, partly by opening more chain stores and also through the launch of a new chain called Inside Story which will specialize in household, electrical and leisure goods. The main Littlewoods chain, now with 108 stores around Britain, will gain a Dumfries outlet in June while negotiations are at an advanced stage for two more, at Gateshead and Southend.

Littlewoods cut back on jobs early last year but has since been revamping many of its stores.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Why the Bank would not waive the rules

It is hardly surprising that those charged with supervising the City are making every effort to mind their Ps and Qs. As big bang looms closer the large financial service companies are straining harder at the leash. At the same time the wave of mega-mergers is producing new practices which the regulators must also keep up with. Almost single-handedly, the merchant bank Morgan Grenfell has been responsible for a spate of new rules. The effect appears to be twofold. There is an increasing reliance on laying down rules and sticking to them. US style, instead of the old informal "Governor's eyebrows" approach. And there is a tendency to put the lid on innovations, to limit the amount of change in a rapidly changing City.

Yesterday's collapse of the merger talks between Morgan Grenfell and Exco neatly illustrates the Bank of England's approach to regulation at present. The talks were scuppered by the Bank's insistence on making no exception to the "O'Brien letter", an informal rule limiting the participation of banks in moneybrokers. The last time it was actively applied was in 1984 when Barclays agreed to sell off most of the holding in Charles Fulton which came with the purchase of Wedd Durlacher.

But as the new financial conglomerates grow in complexity the argument underlying the O'Brien provisions, that they prevent conflicts of interest, looks increasingly thin. Rather than making an exception to the rule or letting it quietly lapse, however, the Bank chose to stick to the letter. Offending Morgan Grenfell alone is not as bad as the danger of offending the whole banking community, and if the banks ever want the rule changed, all they need do is say so. In the meantime, the Bank's policy is that rules are rules.

This comes hard on the heels of the new rule laid down by the Bank last Friday as a result of Morgan Grenfell's activities in the merger game. Here again, instead of an informal warning the Bank issued a detailed set of instructions on strategic share stakes. It was partly prompted by the fears of other merchant banks that their corporate customers would demand a similar service in takeovers in the near future, but the Bank itself was clearly keen to nip the practice in the bud.

But Morgan Grenfell has already found a way round it by organizing a consortium of three banks to buy up to £111 million of Distillers' shares without transgressing the new limit of 25 per cent of capital. This is almost certain to prove the pattern of future takeover tactics by banks and the Bank of England appears to have failed to stop strategic share buying on a large scale.

Morgan Grenfell has also goaded the Stock Exchange into rulemaking.

Companies which are the target of takeovers may no longer underwrite the costs incurred by their suitors without shareholder approval - an obvious reaction to the £80 million Distillers may have to shell out on Guinness's takeover costs.

Whether any of these rules are subsequently relaxed when the regulators feel less embattled, probably well after big bang, remains to be seen. But for the time being they are leaving nothing to chance.

## A paper Budget?

Barring any last minute changes of mind by Nigel Lawson, the chancellor, the budget will contain measures that will at last allow the growth of a sterling commercial paper market. The Bank of England has been sounding out the opinions of corporate treasurers and bankers in the last few months and the result has been resoundingly positive. There are plenty of potential borrowers among the country's largest companies while there would appear to be no shortage of investors among the banks, pension funds and insurance companies.

It only requires a small adjustment to the rules governing securities to allow the introduction of commercial paper. At present anyone issuing paper with a maturity of less than one year is deemed to be subject to the Banking Act which carries with it the need to be licensed as a deposit-taker as well as supervision of the Bank of England. The chancellor demonstrated in last year's budget just how easy it is to change the rules when he exempted paper of between one and three years maturity from Banking Act criteria in an attempt to stimulate the sterling capital market. The effect of this was in fact minimal, so the exemption of even shorter term paper is the next step.

It will no doubt be some time before a British commercial paper market gets anywhere near the \$270 billion outstanding on the US market, but there are obvious advantages to this method of funding as American corporations have discovered. It is cheaper than overdrafts and London Interbank Offered Rate based loans and in general more flexible than sterling acceptances. Commercial paper does not, for example, have to be related to specific trade transactions and can be issued for odd periods instead of traditional one three or six month maturities.

For investors the attractions include the diversification of exposure outside the banking sector where creditworthiness has declined as the international debt problem has escalated. Commercial paper is issued by companies under their own name. The banks merely act as intermediaries arranging the issue of paper, making a secondary market.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only



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February 1986







## TEMPUS

## The rattling quietens in CU's cupboard

Commercial Union has a fear of skeletons. It has, after all, found a large number of the American variety in recent years.

So last year the new management took the unusual step of asking a firm of actuaries to examine the level of provisions for the US business. It proclaimed that CU's reserves were sufficient, but only after the company had provided a further £59 million against some long-term high-risk business, now discontinued.

With this backing, CU was able to declare yesterday that it believes realistic provision had been made against all outstanding claims in the US. While some caution is required, given the uncertainties of the American liability system, this statement represents a huge step forward. Clearly the worst is over.

This picture was confirmed by yesterday's figures for 1985 which showed a reduced loss of £58.8 million before tax, even after the £59 million provision. Underwriting losses in the US were cut from £302 million to £231 million and there were also improvements in Canada and Britain. Life profits rose slightly but investment income was lower at £237 million, against £276 million.

With premium rates rising in all the main markets, prospects for all the companies are good. But investors have tended to assume that because CU has suffered more than its rivals from the recession, it has most to gain from recovery. But CU has cut back so drastically in the US, with non-life premium income down by 39 per cent last year, its potential is now less than that of other companies.

Against this background, the company is unlikely to increase its dividend significantly until 1987. Yesterday's figures showed a loss of 21.9p a share before realized investment gains. Nevertheless, the

dividend was maintained at 11.8p, but the company managed to offset the damage to shareholders' funds by including for the first time a value of £90 million for the life business as well as unrealized gains.

Even if CU makes £90 million before tax this year, the dividend is unlikely to be covered, so shareholders may have to wait until 1987 for an increase. Against that background, the shares at 285p are ahead of the game.

## General Accident

General Accident is further along the road to recovery than Commercial Union. Whereas CU is unlikely to increase its dividend significantly for another two years, General Accident announced a small increase yesterday for 1985.

The increased dividend was not totally covered by earnings, but the company felt it could justify an increase because of a good investment performance and good prospects in 1986. Profits last year rose from £3.9 million to £26.5 million before tax and could top £120 million this year. This is because GA has already seen huge increases in premiums. This is not enough to make underwriting profitable this year, but the improvement should be sufficient to lift the pretax total, which also takes in profits on life business and investment income.

At GA any increase in trading profits comes almost straight through to earnings, because its tax charge is traditionally low. Last year there was even a £10 million tax credit, and this year the charge should be no more than 12 per cent. This compares with CU's tax charge of 33 per cent.

With this sort of recovery in sight, overseas interest could well re-emerge, although Allianz has presumably satisfied its appetite by

acquiring Cornhill. GA trades at a 12 per cent discount to stated net assets, which is not unusual among British composites. By contrast American companies tend to trade at premiums.

Even without takeover speculation, the whole sector is likely to continue to outperform the market, and GA should be in the lead.

## BSR

Presiding over losses is nothing new for BSR's chairman, Bill Wyllie, the corporate rescuer who was brought in to save the company from bankruptcy in 1982.

The pretax loss of £5.9 million for 1985 was, if anything, worse than expected but optimistic statements about a surge in orders in the first half of 1986 set the shares alight, carrying them up 22p to 115p.

The rest of 1986 looks more problematic. Much of the order book consists of orders rescheduled by hard-pressed customers from 1985.

Nor does BSR have the market to itself. There is an increasing tendency for manufacturers to double-source its components and despite being the acknowledged market-leader at the low end of the power scale, it will need to work hard to gain market as it moves up the wattage scale.

Investors are pinning their hopes on new products. Cellular radio is already a highly competitive market but BSR is aiming to build its share. An entirely new concept is Electronic Billboards where the group appears to have new technology. Whether it takes off remains to be seen.

Most analysts appear to be upgrading their 1986 profit expectations. Wood Mackenzie's forecast of 7.5p per share puts the shares on a prospective multiple of 15. BSR may be off its knees but this rating discounts a lot of future growth.

## Economist to join Salomon

By David Smith  
Economics Correspondent

Salomon Brothers, the Wall Street investment house specializing in bond markets, has recruited a leading City economist for its London gilt-edged operation.

Mr Malcolm Roberts, chief economist at the stockbroker Laing & Cruckshank, will join Salomon Brothers this month. He has been with Laing & Cruckshank for nine years.

Salomon Brothers has declared its intention of establishing a major presence in the gilt market in London. Mr Roberts will become vice president of economics and gilt research and one of his tasks will be to build up a research team.

His departure is the latest in a series of moves by City economists and is a considerable blow for Laing & Cruckshank, which will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mr John Barkshire's Mercantile House. No signing on fee, or "golden hello," is involved.

In the US bond market, economists perform a central role for the primary government bond dealers. Wall Street's best-known economist, Dr Henry Kaufman, is with Salomon Brothers in New York.

Mr Roger Bootle, formerly chief economist with Capel-Cure Myers, will be joining Lloyd's Bank's primary gilt dealer this month.

Mr Gavin Davies and Mr David Morrison are taking the economics team from Simon & Coates to the American firm Goldman Sachs next month.

## Merger talks

Raine Industries is in talks about a possible merger with a substantial private building and contracting company.

## Shares touch new highs as leaders stay in demand

The stock market boom continued and share prices reached record levels again as measured by the FT 30-share index which crossed the 1,300 level at midday. The index closed at 1,301.3, a gain of exactly 20 points.

Leading equities again encountered the bulk of demand but there were still many good spots among secondary issues. ICI illustrated the market trend adding another 6p at 967p (after 972p) while P&O, ahead of results later this month and still drawing strength from very good option business, climbed 19p to 525p.

TI Group, where results are expected today, was in demand at 453p, up 24p. Also expecting trading news soon and meeting support was BTR, 10p up at 443p. GKN improved 6p to 337p and United News was 10p better at 308p.

Gilts were around 3-8 higher at one stage, relinquishing the advantage at the end of the session.

The banking sector remained in the limelight, but profit-taking developed in the wake of Midland's results. Its shares closed 8p easier at 479p. Poor figures at first

trimmed Commercial Union, but buyers soon came back at the lower levels, and the shares ended 10p up at 287p.

Satisfactory results put 5p on General Accident at 825p. Investment buying gave a 23p fillip to British Aerospace at 583p, while Cable and Wireless rose 11p to 678p in response to a recent circular.

Better-than-expected trading news gave a 17p lift to BSR at 110p, while the annual statement helped Blue Arrow to a 10p rise at 288p.

Merger talks put 8p on Raine at 49p, and Raybeck after the bid approach climbed 5 1/2p to 44p.

Elsewhere, speculative buying was directed to Pearson, 23p up at 496p, and Sears, which rose 3 1/2p to 1012 1/2p, and Siebe, 12p higher at 785p.

News that the Morgan Grenfell talks are off lowered Exco 15p to 219p. The Grovewood sale continued to benefit BAT, 19p higher at 375p, but Fisons ran into some profit-taking after Tuesday's good figures shedding 15p at 513p.

Oils staged a recovery under the lead of BP 8p higher at 528p. Kaffirs scored modest gains ranging from 10 cents to a dollar.

## RECENT ISSUES

## EQUITIES

Abbott Mead V (180p) 225 dn 5  
Ashley (L) (135p) 240 up 8  
Brookmount (180p) 180  
Chart FL (88p) 90  
Chancery Secs (63p) 71  
Cranswick M (95p) 110 up 1  
Davidson P (180p) 163 dn 2  
Dialene (128p) 170  
Ferguson (J) (10p) 24 up 1  
Granite Surface (56p) 71  
Inoco (55p) 49 dn 1  
JS Pathology (180p) 265 up 2  
Kearfoot (118p) 116

Lexicon (115p) 138 dn 2  
Macro 4 (105p) 125  
Mervale Moore (115p) 125  
Microsystems (127p) 140 up 2  
Norank Sys (80p) 102 up 2  
Really Useful (330p) 383 dn 2  
SAC Int'l (100p) 131 up 1  
SFP (125p) 157  
Templeton (215p) 220  
Sigmax (101p) 88  
Snowdon & B (97p) 112  
Spice (80p) 93  
Tech Comp (130p) 214  
Underwoods (180p) 182 dn 2  
Wellcome (120p) 182 up 1

W York Hosp (90p) 80  
Wickes (140p) 150 up 3

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Cray Elec F/P 296  
Hartwell N/P 4  
Peel Hodge F/P 475  
Porter Chad F/P 4  
Safeway UK 244 1/2 up 1  
Stormguard F/P 21 1/2 up 1  
Wates N/P 34  
Westland N/P 15 up 2  
(Issue price in brackets).

## Burton 'now second only to M&amp;S'

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Burton Group's share of the menswear and womenswear markets is now second only to that of Marks and Spencer, and growing rapidly as other innovative chains like Next also penetrate these markets.

This has placed Marks and Spencer, the clear market leader, under pressure although a slip in market share last year is likely to be followed by another increase this year.

These are estimates from a report by Verdict, the retail trade analyst, which suggests that Marks and Spencer lost half a percentage point of market share last year. That represents about £55 million.

M&S was likely to push its market share from last year's 15 per cent to 16 per cent this year, Verdict says. Burton Group has 8.5 per cent of the menswear market and 4.6 per cent of womenswear.

In both the men's and women's markets, C&A—like Chelsea Girl still a private company—is running at number three, with 4.8 per cent market share in menswear and 3.8 per cent in womenswear. British Home Stores and Littlewoods are both in the top six in each market.

Verdict on Clothing and Footwear Retailers, Verdict Research, 54 Britton Street, London EC1M 5NA.

## Bids cleared

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has decided not to refer five proposed mergers or acquisitions to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. They are Irving International Financing Corporation's takeover of Smith St Aubyn (Holdings); Rodanco Properties' takeover of Haslemere Estates; Security Pacific's purchase of the remaining 70.1 per cent of Hoare Govett; Barclays Bank's purchase of an additional 45.1 per cent stake in Wedd, Durfaher, Mordaunt and Co; and Barclays's purchase of an additional 70 per cent stake in de Zoete and Bevan.

There will also be no referral of the proposed establishment of a joint venture company by Cadbury Schweppes and the Coca-Cola Co.

## BTP wins

BTP has sufficient acceptances to exercise its right to acquire compulsorily the Dulay Bitumastic shares it does not already own.

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## Life offices sued over premiums

By Lawrence Lever

Further details are emerging of lawsuits being brought against leading life offices over the disappearance of pension and life assurance money paid to an insurance intermediary now in liquidation.

Life offices are resisting claims that hundreds of thousands of pounds were received by the intermediary acting as their agent.

Clerical Medical has confirmed that a £186,000 action has been brought against it as a result of missing payments. A company spokesman said: "The action has been brought by the trustees of a pension scheme who had a pensions contract with us. They are asking for a declaration that certain moneys paid to this broker are held by us for them."

The company would be defending the action. "The law on this point is quite clear," the spokesman said. "The intermediary acts as agent for the assured even though he is paid commission by the insurance broker."

The spokesman declined to confirm that Clerical Medical had a formal agency agreement with the broker.

A separate case, involving the same broker, who for legal reasons, cannot be named, is being brought against Friends Provident.

The Quakers Life Office is being sued for about £25,000. A BMW dealer, who set up a pension scheme for himself, his wife and son, alleges this sum was paid to the broker.

The life office says it has never received it and, in any event, is raising the same defence as Clerical Medical—that the broker was not its agent.

"The broker recommended Friends Provident," the BMW dealer said. "We put £100,000 into the pension scheme over the years, but Friends Provident says it has received only £75,000."

Friends Provident said it was defending the claim through solicitors in London.

Another life office involved in the missing money saga is Equity & Law. One of its policyholders, who was funding a pensions policy through the intermediary, said: "I am 60 years old and started paying £2,000 a year in 1980. I've been told that the payment for 1983 has gone missing."

## £27m deal

National Starch and Chemical Corporation, a member of the Unilever Group, is to buy a corn-milling plant at Hamburg, West Germany, from a subsidiary of CPC International for DM60 million (£27.3 million). National Starch will make a substantial additional investment there for the production of speciality starches.

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While continuing in shipping, we've also moved into areas such as freight forwarding, offshore oil support, warehousing and waste management.

As we are an industrial services group with a special emphasis on international distribution, such diversity is obviously desirable.

It means that we can offer our clients a more complete service: the parts which our shipping operations cannot reach, for example, our warehousing and air freight forwarding can.

Of course, such breadth of service cannot in itself assure success.

But what can be quality of service.

By applying the professionalism which is the hallmark of our shipping operations, we set out to ensure that all our other services operate to an equally high standard.

If that sounds like an idle boast, it isn't—it's a boast based on a considerable amount of hard work.

Consider MSAS, our international freight forwarding subsidiary. Total shipments each year are now worth over £300m to the company, which puts it among the top ten freight forwarders worldwide.

Consider our fuel distribution and waste management services.

Cory Coal is one of Britain's leading

coal traders. One of the world's largest oil companies relies on Cory Oil to provide a UK distribution service on its behalf. And after investing £11 million in our London operation, Cory Waste Management

now handles over half a million tonnes of the capital's domestic refuse.

Offshore oil support is a fast-growing area in which we are represented by our subsidiary O.I.L. It is a volatile sector, as reflected by the fact that few British companies working within it have remained profitable. But one certainly has.

Our cargo-handling and warehousing operations are similarly strong.

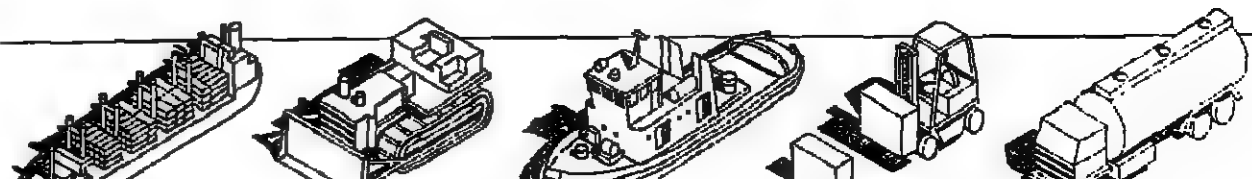
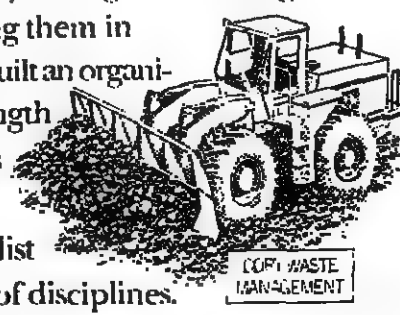
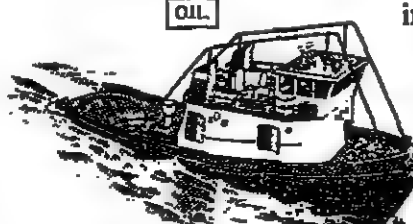
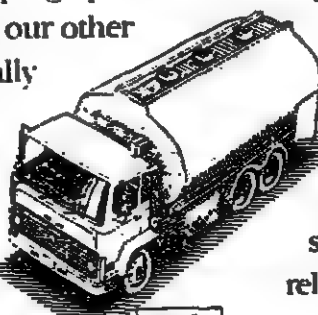
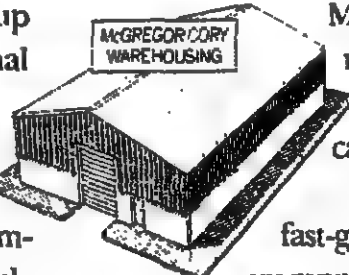
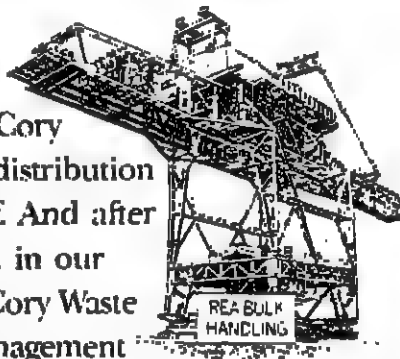
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# The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

## Mortgage Rates

The Royal Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from 17 March 1986 its Endowment Mortgage Rate will be reduced from 13.25% to 12.75% per annum. House Mortgage Rate remains unchanged at 12.75% per annum.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registered Office: 22, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Registered in Scotland No. 50512.



No.	Company	Your gain or loss
	BANKS DISCOUNT HP	

24

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Feb 24. Dealings end March 10. \$Contango day March 10. Settlement day, March 17.  
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1

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dividend a Ex. all b Forecast dividend c  
ated price e Interim payment passed f Price at  
vision g Dividend and yield exclude g special  
nt h Bid for company i Pre-merger figures n  
st-earnings p Ex-capital distribution r Ex rights  
trip or share split t Tax-free y Price adjusted  
e. dealings  
No significant rate



## US checks loans system

From Bailey Morris  
Washington

The US Congress has launched an urgent investigation into the health of America's 3,200 savings and loan institutions which have been badly bruised by falling loans and deposit runs.

Both the US Senate and House banking committees are trying to determine whether the Federal Insurance System is adequate.

Congressional officials will also examine the resources available to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Industry analysts estimate that up to one third of the 3,200 savings associations are in danger of going under.

## Join EMS now, says independent group

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Britain should target its exchange rate, and preferably now become a full member of the European Monetary System at an exchange rate of about three marks to the pound, according to an inquiry report by an independent group of bankers, industrialists and academics yesterday.

This is the conclusion of the majority of a committee set up by the Public Policy Centre, chaired by Lord Croom, chairman of Guinness Peat and formerly Permanent Secretary to the Treasury.

However, three members of the committee, while agreeing that the Government should declare an exchange rate tar-

get, believe that this should be based on "zones" set by the Government, independently of the EMS.

The committee included Professor John Williamson, Senior Fellow of the Institute of International Economics in Washington, who has made detailed calculations of a "fundamental equilibrium exchange rate" for the pound.

This suggests that sterling is still overvalued. According to the committee, a figure of about 70 on sterling's trade-weighted index would be appropriate, about 5% per cent below present levels.

Since the collapse of fixed exchange rates in the early

1970s, the committee believes that the system has been characterized by substantial currency misalignments and a lack of discipline on national overspending and of incentives to co-ordinate policies.

Its report, however, points out that West Germany - "a country which has pursued both monetary targets and relative exchange rate stability" - has suffered milder swings in competitiveness than either the United States or Britain.

The three minority members argue that the Government should declare its own independent exchange rate target to leave itself free to adopt a "flexible and pragmatic approach" in the early stages of the move towards an active exchange rate policy. But the majority believes that a commitment to a "functioning and successful mechanism" like the EMS has greater credibility, which would lead to a "much quicker build-up of market confidence".

The majority favours entering the EMS with wide fluctuation margins for the pound (allowing it to move by 6 per cent either side of a central rate, as for the lira), at least for an initial period.

Instead of waiting for the pound to fall to a lower, more suitable level for entry, the committee "on balance" favours immediate entry, but with margins around a "central rate" rather than the present market rates.

The committee is to publish a fuller report in May, but it decided to present its principal conclusions in advance of the Budget decisions on money and exchange rate policy.

### APPOINTMENTS

Protech International (UK): Mr Ian Bacon and Mr Jeremy Burchell have become managing directors.

Wrightson Wood: Dr Colin Wall has been made a director.

Kleinwort Benson: Mr Calum McCarthy and Mr Graham Pinlout have been named as directors.

Ocean Transport and Trading: Mr Peter Lloyd Marshall has become a non-executive director.

Norman Broadbent International: Mr T G Parry Rogers has been named as a non-executive director.

Dobson Park Industries: Mr H Poulson has become technical director. Mr E C Townsend is to be financial director, replacing Mr G H Edwards, who is to be a non-executive director.



Alan Hutt, above, has been appointed as director of legal services for Honeywell.

British Steam Specialties: Mr Roy D Thompson has become an executive director.

Gartmore: Mr Jeremy Seames has joined the board.

Bestobell: Mr Roy Thomas has been named as a non-executive director.

ARC: Mr John Draper has become managing director, south eastern region.

Price Waterhouse: Mr R J (Tom) Walls has become director, public sector services.

### COMPANY NEWS

**HIGHLAND ELECTRONICS:** Interim dividend 5 per cent (same) for the six months to Oct. 31, 1985. Turnover £6.36 million (£5.68 million). Pretax profit £513,456 (£502,775). Earnings per share 3.58p (3.17p).

**YELVERTON INVESTMENTS:** No dividend for the year to Oct. 31, 1985. Pretax profit £24,000 (loss £143,000). Earnings per share 0.5p (loss 0.8p). Net assets per share 34p (24p).

**CRUSTS:** Interim dividend 0.35p for the six months to Dec. 29, 1985. Turnover £2.12 million (£752,000). Pretax profit £267,000 (£95,000). No tax (nil). Earnings per share 5.67p (3.69p).

More company news on Page 22

### BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	12½%
Adam & Company	12½%
BCCI	12½%
Chubb Bank Savings	12½%
Consolidated Creds	12½%
Continental Trust	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%
C. Hoare & Co.	12½%
Lloyds Bank	12½%
Nat. Westminster	12½%
Royal Bank of Scotland	12½%
TSB	12½%
Combank NA	12½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

## THE BIG BANG EXPLAINED. (WELL, AS MUCH AS ANYONE CAN)

Dare we say it? As the moment of the Big Bang approaches, many people remain uncertain as to how it is all going to work.

At Phillips & Drew, we have decided to take the plunge.

We are currently producing a series of guides to the Big Bang. And the first one, which sets the scene, is now available.

It states how we see the Big Bang affecting gilts, how we envisage the new market maker system working, why access to capital is vital - and why we have decided to go for the 100% solution at the earliest opportunity.

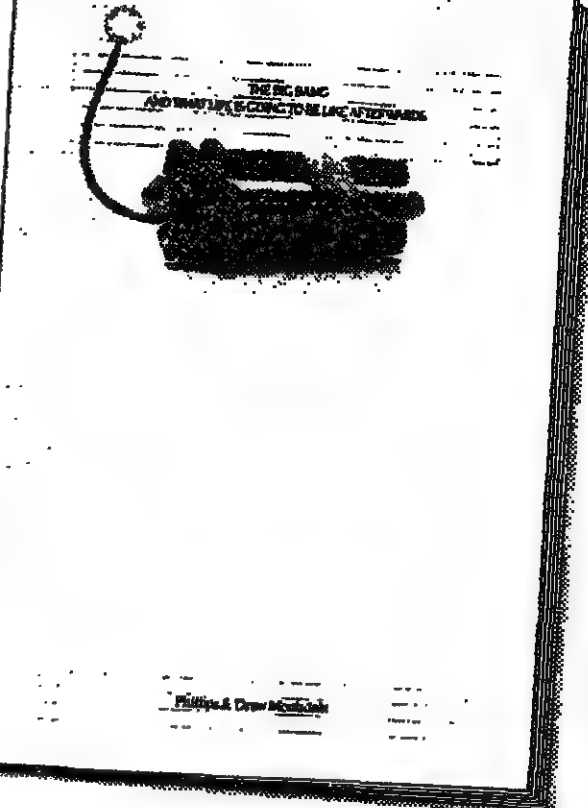
The 100% solution (as the brochure explains) includes our decision to acquire 100% of jobbers Moulds & Co.

Moulds & Co. is a very innovative firm. For example, all their bargains are fully computerised.

Not surprisingly, they are currently enjoying enormous expansion. So, indeed, are we; and it became clear that 100% ownership was going to be the way for both of us to continue our growth.

Similarly, the brochure explains why we ourselves are now owned in turn by Union Bank of Switzerland, as was announced in the press last weekend.

For it means that already, six months ahead of the Big Bang, we are assured of substantial capital backing from one of the greatest banks in the world.



And it also means that we can use the time between now and October constructively, concentrating on client service rather than on internal problems.

These are but some of the subjects dealt with in our Big Bang brochure.

Whether or not you are a client, we believe you will find it helpful and interesting.

To receive a copy, just write to John Lewis or John Woolfenden at Phillips & Drew Moulds, St. Alphage House West Wing, St. Alphage Garden, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5BQ.

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Phillips & Drew Moulds

## Commercial Union 12 MONTHS REVIEW to 31 December 1985

## "Current trading is improving and the Directors recommend a maintained dividend"

An unaudited operating profit of £2m, before taxation and a special United States claims provision of £59m in respect of discontinued business, was earned for the year to 31 December 1985 (1984 loss £72.8m). The loss attributable to shareholders, after taxation and the special United States claims provision, was £30.5m (1984 loss £34.9m). Shareholders' funds amounted to £1,161m after the inclusion of a value of £90m for the Northern Non-Participation Life fund from which all profits accrue to shareholders. The Directors recommend a maintained final dividend.

Operations outside the United States produced an operating profit before taxation of £119.8m (1984 £74.1m), while a loss of £119.6m, before taxation and the special provision, was sustained in the United States (1984 loss £146.9m).

In underlying terms non-life premium income showed a reduction of 6% and investment income of 1%. This was a consequence of the reduced level of our operations in the United States.

Life operations continued to grow and life profits increased to £80.3m.

In the United Kingdom, there was a sharp improvement in the operating profit before taxation. The result reflects the actions we have taken in underwriting and pricing which led to improved claims experience in most major classes, particularly for commercial business.

In the United States, following management changes in 1983, a major programme of corrective action was introduced and implemented. The objectives of this programme have now been achieved with the first action taken at the end of 1985.

A most important element of the programme, now completed, was a review of claims practices to establish confidence in the adequacy of claims provisions. In 1984 a more conservative approach than that used previously was established, and in 1985 we were also able to benefit from external actuarial advice. In 1985 the underwriting result included the effect of strengthening prior years' claims provisions by £139m (£200m), of which £42m (£60m) was contributed by the exceptional surplus release from our United States pension fund.

In addition, as protection against further adverse development in respect of prior years' claims for the discontinued Special Underwriting Group business, reinsurance protection of £139m (£200m) has been given to our United States subsidiary. This has cost our London operations £59m (£85m), which has been charged as a special provision, and has been used to purchase securities, with a face value of £139m (£200m), having maturity dates in the 1990's and later, when any claims materialising could be expected to be paid.

The Board believes, based upon our internal analysis, complemented by the external advice we have received, that realistic provision has been made for all outstanding claims in the United States.

We expect a significant improvement in profitability in the United States this year as further substantial rate increases have been achieved, 30% in commercial lines and 8% in personal lines in 1985. Excluding the adverse impact of prior years' claims strengthening, 1985 showed a considerable improvement over 1984 and thus, together with the expectation of continued rate increases, gives a high level of confidence to our outlook for 1986.

In the Netherlands, Canada and Rest of the World, despite the effect of competitive pressures on trading conditions, satisfactory operating profits were achieved.

The stability provided by life profits, the continued financial strength of the Company and the improving trends in the United Kingdom, United States and Canada are all most encouraging. However, at this stage, the Directors consider it appropriate to do no more than maintain an unchanged final dividend and accordingly recommend a final dividend of 6.95p per share payable on 16 May 1986. Together with the interim dividend of 4.85p this gives a total dividend of 11.80p (1984 11.80p) per share. These dividends, including preference dividends for 1985, amount to £48.7m.

This announcement does not constitute full accounts for the year. Copies of the full accounts, which have not yet been reported upon by the Auditors, will be circulated to shareholders on 20 March 1986 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after approval at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 14 April 1986.

	1985 £m	1984 £m
<b>Premium income</b>		
Life	551.8	495.6
Non-life	1,753.2	2,139.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,305.0</b>	<b>2,635.1</b>
<b>Investment income net of loan interest</b>	<b>236.7</b>	<b>275.9</b>
<b>Underwriting result after exceptional item</b>	<b>(325.7)</b>	<b>(439.4)</b>
<b>Life profits</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>77.9</b>
<b>Associated companies' earnings</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>12.8</b>
<b>Operating profit/(loss) before taxation and special provision</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(72.8)</b>
<b>Special United States claims provision in respect of discontinued business</b>	<b>(59.0)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Operating loss before taxation but after special provision</b>	<b>(58.8)</b>	<b>(72.8)</b>
<b>Taxation and minorities</b>	<b>(31.6)</b>	<b>(15.5)</b>
<b>Operating loss after taxation, minorities and special provision</b>	<b>(90.4)</b>	<b>(88.3)</b>
<b>Realised investment gains</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>53.4</b>
<b>Loss attributable to shareholders</b>	<b>(30.5)</b>	<b>(34.9)</b>
<b>Earnings per share</b>		
- Operating loss after taxation, minorities and special provision	<b>(21.93p)</b>	<b>(21.44p)</b>
- Loss attributable to shareholders	<b>(7.40p)</b>	<b>(8.44p)</b>
<b>Shareholders' Funds</b>	<b>£1,161m</b>	<b>£1,073m</b>
<b>Operating profit/(loss) before taxation and special provision</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
United Kingdom	71.5	12.4
United States	(119.6)	(146.9)
Netherlands	38.8	42.9
Canada	5.6	8.4
Rest of the World	3.9	12.8
	<b>2</b>	<b>(72.8)</b>
<b>Rates of Exchange</b>		
United States	\$1.44	\$1.16
Netherlands	Fl.4.00	Fl.4.13
Canada	\$2.01	\$1.54



**Commercial Union Assurance Company plc**

## General Accident

## RESULTS FOR 1985

### WORLDWIDE RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1985

The audited accounts for the year to 31st December 1985 will be published on 14th April 1986, but preliminary and unaudited figures for 1985, with actual figures for 1984, are as follows:-

	1985 £m	1984 £m
<b>Premium Income</b>		
General Business	1,691.3	1,689.0
Long Term Business	205.0	189.9
	<b>1,896.3</b>	<b>1,878.9</b>
<b>Profit and Loss Account</b>		
Investment Income (see note)	256.7	266.2
Underwriting - General Business Result	(237.0)	(268.3)
Long Term Business Profits	8.8	7.7
	<b>28.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Less Interest on Loans</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>Profit before Taxation</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Taxation - U.K. and Overseas</b>	<b>(10.0)</b>	<b>(8.1)</b>
<b>Profit after Taxation</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>12.0</b>
<b>Minority Interest and Preference Dividends</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Profit for the year available to Ordinary Shareholders</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>9.8</b>
<b>Earnings per Share</b>	<b>20.5p</b>	<b>5.9p</b>
<b>Dividend per Share</b>	<b>22.0p</b>	<b>20.0p</b>
<b>Net Assets per Share</b>	<b>940p</b>	<b>823p</b>

Note - Investment Income which increased by 11.9% in original currencies excludes £11.5m (1984 £10.7m) representing amortisation of U.S. deep discount bonds which under the U.S.A. accounting conventions would be credited to earnings.

### Analysis by Territory of General Business Premium Income and Underwriting Result (before internal reinsurance)

	1985		1984	
	Premium Income	Underwriting Result	Premium Income	Underwriting Result
U.K.	582.0	(79.6)	505.0	(72.4)
U.S.A.	677.4	(96.6)	732.6	(136.1)
EEC other than UK	102.8	(15.1)	92.1	(16.3)
Canada	144.7	(15.1)	157.9	(33.8)
Australia	34.1	(5.4)	43.2	(1.5)
Others, including reinsurance	91.0	(8.7)	87.8	(5.4)
Marine and Aviation	59.3	0.5	50.4	(2.8)
	<b>1,691.3</b>	<b>(237.0)</b>	<b>1,689.0</b>	<b>(268.3)</b>

### Life Department

There was an increased contribution to profit and loss account from our Long Term funds, which also recorded UK new business production as follows:

	1985 £m	1984 £m
<b>New Life and Annuity Premiums</b>		
Annual	25.7	28.9
Single	48.2	45.2

### Final Dividend for the year ended 31st December 1985

The Directors have decided to recommend to the Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 7th May 1986, a final dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 14.0p per share payable on or after 1st July 1986, to Shareholders on the register on 1st June 1986. The total dividend for the year of 22.0p per share (1984 - 20.0p per share) will cost £37.0m (1984 £33.6m).

### Net Assets

The net asset value of the group increased during the year by £188m to £1,580m.

**General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation plc**  
World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH



# Heywood to raise £7.8m by rights issue

Higher profits, a bigger dividend and plans for a £7.8 million rights issue are reported by Heywood Williams, a manufacturer of building materials at Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

The final dividend for 1985 is being raised from 3.8p to 4.35p, making a total of 6.75p, compared with 6p. Turnover expanded from £95.17 million to £102.1 million, while pretax profit on ordinary activities rose from £3.6 million to £5.52 million. Earnings per share climbed from 10.4p to 18.4p.

Planet Group and Birmingham Powder, acquired during 1985, have been treated as

group members throughout last year; the figures for 1984 have been adjusted on the same basis.

Heywood is to raise about £7.8 million, after expenses, by the issue of up to 5.38 million new ordinary shares on a one-for-four basis at 150p each.

The board reports that current trading results are ahead of last year and it considers prospects both in Britain and the US to be favourable. It is confident that the results for 1986 will be "highly satisfactory".

## COMPANY NEWS

● **WOODSIDE PETROLEUM:** Net loss for 1985, Aus \$8.73 million (about £4.23 million), against a profit of Aus \$4.27 million. No dividend (same).

● **SAVE AND PROSPER GOLD FUND:** Year to Jan. 31, 1986. No dividend. Dividends and deposit account interest £139,356 (£210,863), underwriting commission £4,479 (£5,107), making £143,835 (£215,970). Net revenue £21,652 (£87,736).

A half-time deficit is announced by William Sinclair Holdings, a plant breeder and seed specialist, at Boston, Lincolnshire. In the six months to Dec. 31, 1985, the company made a pretax loss of £129,000, against a profit of £31,000 last time. Turnover shrank from £10.64 million to £10.31 million. However, the interim dividend is being maintained at 1.65p, payable on April 3. The board explains that the first-half results never reflect the outcome for the full year.

● **NINETEEN TWENTY-EIGHT INVESTMENT TRUST:** Results for the year to Dec. 31, 1985, compared with the previous nine months. A final dividend of 2.5p (1.5p) is being paid on May 1, making 4p (3.5p). Gross revenue £3.29 million (£2.77 million). Pretax revenue £2.7 million (£2.35 million). The board is recommending the adoption of new articles of association.

● **TELEMETRIX:** Six months to Jan. 5, 1986. Interim dividend 0.6p (same). Turnover £8.02 million (£8.18 million). Pretax loss £688,000 (profit £1.35 million). Loss per share 2.5p (earnings 0p).

● **JOHNSON, MATTHEY:** The company has sold Eagle Transfers to Millden Signs. This transaction, which includes the sale of premises at Lichfield to the new Central Midlands Co-operative Society for use as its administrative headquarters, generates about £1 million for Johnson, Matthey.

● **CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr Michael Green, the chairman, told the annual meeting that the current year had started well. Profits before tax were significantly ahead of the first four months of last year. With cash balances exceeding £20 million and no debt, Carlton would continue to seek opportunities for further expansion.

● **F S RATCLIFFE:** Half-year to Oct. 31, 1985. Sales \$9.14 million (£815,450). Pretax profit £1,770 (loss £57,922). Tax nil (nil). Earnings per share 0.22p (loss 7.25p).

● **FLEMING MERCANTILE INVESTMENT TRUST:** Final dividend 2.35p, making 3.6p (3p) for the year to Jan. 31, 1986. Dividends and interest £10.46 million (£9.26 million). Pretax net revenue £8.35 million (£6.75 million). Earnings per share 3.87p (3.21p).

● **SANTOS:** Consolidated operating profit, before tax, for 1985 was Aus \$240 million (£115 million), an increase of 122.3 per cent. Sales revenue Aus \$306.5 million (Aus \$287.5 million). Final dividend 11 cents (8 cents), making 20 cents (15 cents).

● **STOHERT & PITT:** No interim dividend for the six months to Dec. 31, 1985. Turnover £12.33 million (£12.37 million). Pretax loss £1.42 million (loss £128,000). Loss per share 55.4p (5p). The board reports that the changes made between Sept. and Dec. last year will lead to a much improved situation during the second half of this year. Early results are encouraging, with improving order books in each of the four divisions.

● **TOPS ESTATES:** Contracts have been exchanged for the purchase of the freehold shopping centre at Shepherd's Bush, London, for £6.45 million in cash. The group plans to enclose the property with a fully weather-protected environment. The company intends to seek a full listing at the earliest opportunity.

● **SELECTIV:** The company is reporting for the six months to Sept. 30, 1985. Turnover £214,000 (£248,000). Pretax loss £157,000 (£116,000). Tax nil (nil). Loss per share 1.41p (0.84p). The company is collaborating with a consortium, Cablevision Bedfordshire, with a view to applying for the franchise for South Bedfordshire.

● **COMALCO (subsidiary of RTZ):** Losses, before tax, Aus \$18.33 million (about £9 million) for 1985, against a profit of Aus \$90.38 million. Dividend, one cent a share, compared with four cents last time. Consolidated net losses, after income tax, Aus \$69.13 million (profit Aus \$20.36 million).

● **WILLIAM BEDFORD:** Dividend 4.5p (nil) for 1985. Turnover £2.9 million (£2.55 million). Pretax profit £938,151 (£650,686). Earnings per share 11.9p (8.6p). The board reports that to date in the current year, sales are holding their own. It believes that good prospects exist for a recovery in the European market in the last part of this year, based on the fall in oil prices and projected growth in the European economies.

Raybeck, the London clothing manufacturer and retailer, has been approached by a consortium of institutional investors and managers of Raybeck subsidiaries which may lead to an offer being made for the company. The directors advised shareholders to take no action about their shares until an announcement is made.

● **BROOKE TOOL ENGINEERING:** Mr Fane Vernon, the chairman, told the annual meeting that in the first four months of the current year the group had achieved a substantial increase in sales and operating profit was up by more than 35 per cent compared with the equivalent period last year.

● **BP CANADA:** The company has reduced its semi-annual dividend from 40 to 35 cents a share because of the current weakness and uncertainty about oil prices.

## Law Report March 6 1986

### Councillors' delay in setting rate is wilful misconduct

Smith and Others v Skinner, Gladden and Others v McMahon, Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Mr Justice Caulefield and Mr Justice Russell.

[Judgment given March 5] Lambeth and Liverpool councillors were guilty of wilful misconduct which caused loss or damage to the ratepayers, knowingly or with reckless indifference they, by their votes, caused their respective councils to act unlawfully by deferring the rate.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing appeals under section 20(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1982 by 32 councillors of Lambeth London Borough Council against the decision of the district auditor for Lambeth on September 4, 1985, certifying the sum of £126,947 to be due from the council to the ratepayers.

The council had made a rate in time to ensure that they began to receive their rate income as soon as was reasonably practicable, unless there was some valid reason for delaying the making of the rate.

In the circumstances of some councils, delay of more than a few days beyond April 1, would be *prima facie* unreasonable and therefore unlawful.

It was submitted on behalf of the councillors that although Lambeth was ratecapped and the council objected to the Rates Act 1984 as an improper restriction on their powers, they did not in fact wish to make a rate higher than that permitted by law. The council believed they had cause to ask for more government money, and that they might receive more.

Their problem was that, in order to make a legal rate without receiving more money from central Government, the council were obliged to budget to reduce their expenditure.

But councillors decided that, if they took that step before or at the beginning of the financial year, they would not be able to persuade the secretary of state to make more funds available. So their decision to defer making the rate was both rational and lawful.

The normal steps by which an authority which had full freedom of action made a rate was envisaged in section 2 of the General Rate Act 1967 as being: (i) To estimate, to the best of their ability, the total expenditure in the year in question; (ii) To calculate the likely total of receipts from rents and charges, and of monies to be received from central Government, together (where appropriate) with any sum to be taken from reserves.

When, however, a council was rate-capped, the process was effectively reversed. Once the maximum rate was known, (ii) became a definite amount. If there was certainty, or certainty with narrow limits, about the total amounts under head (ii), the council's task was so to reduce budgeted expenditure down to no more than the total of (ii) plus (iii).

Local authorities were under an obligation in law to do that, even though the councillors might regard such reductions in expenditure as highly undesirable and politically unacceptable.

Neither was a valid excuse (not was either here urged as an excuse) for not obeying the law. Here, Lambeth Council knew the figure of the maximum rate which could be made when the secretary of state announced it in early February 1985. They knew at the same time the amount of rate support grant the secretary of state had announced, their target, the effect of penalties, and that up to the end of March they had not been granted the disregard they sought.

However reluctant the council were to make a lawful rate before April 1, 1985 by budgeting for reductions in expenditure, they had before them the information to enable them to do so.

If thereafter the secretary of state had granted disregards which effectively increased the rate support grant paid to the council, either expenditure could have been increased, or the rate could have been reduced.

In what way would making a rate at that stage have made it less likely that he would grant disregards later? The only logical answer was deferring the rate contained an implied threat that services would deteriorate and collapse, and the secretary of state would have to intervene.

His Lordship accepted that none of the councillors in fact intended to allow services to collapse and chaos to ensue, but that they were willing to use the threat as the only logical inference to be drawn from the facts.

A reason for not making or deferring the making of a rate, if it was to be a valid justification for what would otherwise be a breach of the council's duty to make a lawful rate at the proper time, had to be a reason relating to the rate-making process or to the rate itself.

But a decision to defer with the object of threatening the secretary of state that chaos would ensue if he did not make more funds available was not based upon a reason relating to the rate or rate making. It was a decision taken for an extraneous and improper reason.

proper opportunity to make representations in response?

Each of the auditors did give to the councillors a fair and proper notice of the case they had to meet, and a proper opportunity to make representations in response. That ground of challenge in relation to each appeal therefore failed.

The decisions of the auditors of September 6, 1985 were both validly made. His Lordship turned to consider the substance of the appeals.

Having set out the history of events and the councillors' comments, His Lordship returned to the three issues which had to be decided in relation to each councillor.

Lambeth

A council had to make a rate in time to ensure that they began to receive their rate income as soon as was reasonably practicable, unless there was some valid reason for delaying the making of the rate.

In the circumstances of some councils, delay of more than a few days beyond April 1, would be *prima facie* unreasonable and therefore unlawful.

It was submitted on behalf of the councillors that although Lambeth was ratecapped and the council objected to the Rates Act 1984 as an improper restriction on their powers, they did not in fact wish to make a rate higher than that permitted by law. The council believed they had cause to ask for more government money, and that they might receive more.

Their problem was that, in order to make a legal rate without receiving more money from central Government, the council were obliged to budget to reduce their expenditure.

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However reluctant the council were to make a lawful rate before April 1, 1985 by budgeting for reductions in expenditure, they had before them the information to enable them to do so.

If thereafter the secretary of state had granted disregards which effectively increased the rate support grant paid to the council, either expenditure could have been increased, or the rate could have been reduced.

In what way would making a rate at that stage have made it less likely that he would grant disregards later? The only logical answer was deferring the rate contained an implied threat that services would deteriorate and collapse, and the secretary of state would have to intervene.

His Lordship accepted that none of the councillors in fact intended to allow services to collapse and chaos to ensue, but that they were willing to use the threat as the only logical inference to be drawn from the facts.

A reason for not making or deferring the making of a rate, if it was to be a valid justification for what would otherwise be a breach of the council's duty to make a lawful rate at the proper time, had to be a reason relating to the rate-making process or to the rate itself.

But a decision to defer with the object of threatening the secretary of state that chaos would ensue if he did not make more funds available was not based upon a reason relating to the rate or rate making. It was a decision taken for an extraneous and improper reason.

It was clear that councillors were given information and advice from which it should have been clear to them, if not by the end of March, then certainly by April 30, 1985 that what they were doing was wrong.

In continuing to vote to defer making a rate, the Lambeth councillors wilfully disregarded that advice, were reckless as to whether they were acting wrongly or not, and were thus guilty of wilful misconduct.

The council, by not making a rate, lost interest on money which would have been paid if it had made a rate. That was sufficient to bring the loss within section 20.

Save for an alteration reducing the certified amount to £105,836 the appeals of all the Lambeth councillors would be dismissed.

Liverpool

It was submitted that the councillors did not defer making a rate in order that they might themselves act as a form of pressure. It was accepted that the council could not validly use delay in making a rate as a threat.

The reason for the delay, it was submitted, was to attempt to achieve greater certainty as to the amount of government grants the council were likely to receive. The council always intended to make a rate by June 20, they were entitled to defer until that date, since they had valid reasons for doing so.

The major difficulty was that that was not the case presented by the councillors in their affidavits. From the council's own evidence his Lordship was quite clear that their intention was to defer making a rate in order to put pressure on the secretary of state.

Even if his Lordship were to accept that the councillors' intention was to defer the rate in the hope of achieving greater certainty, they were acting irrationally.

The evidence did not support their case.

There was, however, an even more compelling argument for the auditor. The process of deciding whether, and by how much, to cut expenditure and whether, and by how much, to increase the rate, in order to prepare a balanced budget and make a lawful rate, inevitably took some time.

Even a council which, like Liverpool in 1985-86, was not rate-capped might decide it did not wish to increase its rate to any large extent. It was clear that that was Liverpool council's intention, which they carried into effect by increasing the rate by 9 per cent.

The only way, then, in which Liverpool could make a lawful rate was by reducing expenditure in its budget considerably. As the council failed to do that, it followed that the rate made on June 14, 1985 was not a lawful rate.

Nobody had sought to have it declared invalid in the courts, and presumably nobody would now wish to do so, and it thus remained an effective rate. But it was still unlawful.

By failing to take any steps to make a lawful rate in time or at all, the council acted unlawfully. There was one final point. If the rate made on June 14, 1985 was lawful, exactly the same budget could have been approved, and the same rate made, before the end of March 1985. The estimated expenditure, £265 million, was almost exactly the amount of the city treasurer's estimate in his report of November 28, 1984. Virtually every other important figure in the equation, save the rate itself, was known by mid January 1985. There was no reason for delay.

The councillors' case, shortly, was that they believed that they were under no legal obligation to make a rate until June 20, 1985, and that they had valid reasons for not making a rate until shortly before then. They said they based that on their experience in 1984, and no advice they received subsequently was to the contrary.

A summary of the advice the councillors were given by their officers, and by the auditor, said that it would be unlawful not to make a rate by June 20, but neither said it would necessarily be lawful to defer rate-making until then.

If individual councillors did believe that the secretary of state might, as a result of their deferring the rate, produce any substantial amount of additional funds, they, like their Lambeth colleagues, were acting irrationally.

But as a council, as a body, they put forward no reason at all, valid or not. They simply failed in their duty to make a lawful rate, and continued so to fail until after June 26. They all must have known that they did nothing until June 14, and they were warned that what they intended to do then was unlawful.

So the councillors knew, or must at the very least have been recklessly indifferent to, the fact that by their votes they were causing the council to act unlawfully. They were also therefore guilty of wilful misconduct.

As a matter of fact the rate rebate subsidy monthly payments, and the payment in lieu of rates on Crown property, would have been paid if the council had made a lawful rate, and were not paid because it did not. The misconduct caused the loss alleged.

The appeals of the Liverpool councillors would be dismissed.

Mr Justice Russell delivered concurring judgments. Solicitors: Bindman and Partners, Mr Robert G. Broomfield, Lambeth Christian Fisher & Co; Mr William Murray, Liverpool; Clifford-Turner.

## Price Waterhouse

### Invitation for Offers to Purchase

Offers are invited to purchase the assets and operations of the Price Waterhouse Group, the marine interests of Pan-Electric Industries Limited based in Singapore, currently under liquidation.

Assets: Approximately 100 vessels, together with associated plant, equipment and property.

Operations: Salvage, towage, diving, transportation, supply, off-shore activities, port operations and shipyards.

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Singapore 2260

Telephone: 561-2222  
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# Midland Bank Group











## GOLF

**By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent**

**Coetzee: bloodied and bewildered (photograph: Ian Stewart)**

Not that there would have been any other outcome, but it would have showed us how much of Coetzee there actually was under the slab. This would have been useful in assessing Bruno's achievement for when he meets

inspected the courses yesterday afternoon.







# GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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Accounts Manager  
Chief Accountant  
Systems Consultant  
Project Engineer  
Sales Manager  
Chemical Engineering Manager

CASTLE  
RECRUITMENT

## 2 CONSERVATION OFFICERS

Applications are invited for two new conservation officer Grade F/E posts in the Conservation Department of the Royal Armouries, the National Museum of Arms and Armour. One post is concerned with the conservation and restoration of armour, and the second with the conservation and restoration of firearms. Applicants should normally have a degree in a relevant subject, some other recognised qualification in conservation, or have served a recognised apprenticeship in a relevant craft. They will also be expected to have a proven ability in metal-working techniques.

The successful applicants will be expected to work closely with the senior staff of the Conservation Department of the Royal Armouries in order to learn the necessary specialist skills. Those selected for interview will be expected to show examples of their work and demonstrate their skills during a day visit to the Royal Armouries.

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Further details and application form can be obtained from Miss S J Wilson, Personnel Section, Royal Armouries, HM Tower of London, EC3N 4AB, or telephone 01-480 6338 ext. 352. Please quote ref T/CO. Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 28th March.

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Personnel Division

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Ref: GT/A/04-3

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Ref: GT/A/04-4

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MANUEL CANOVAS LTD.  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

£12,000 to £17,000 plus car.

We are a wholly owned subsidiary of Manuel Canovas S.A., France and import and distribute the fine quality furnishing fabric designed by MANUEL CANOVAS.

You will be expected to develop business relationships with existing clients as well as identify market sectors and potential clients.

Ideally you should have at least 4 years' experience in the sales of soft furnishing fabrics or allied field and have established a proven record of success.

Write, giving details of why you think you will be right for the position to:

Jane Baydon,  
Manuel Canovas Ltd.,  
37-39 Cheval Place,  
London SW7 1EW.

ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY  
Executive Secretary

The Royal Statistical Society founded 1834 is a learned society with a membership of about 6,000 fellows. The present Executive Secretary, with 10 years' experience and a reputation for success in consultation with elected Honorary Officers, the Executive Secretary is responsible for the day to day handling of the Society's affairs as determined by its Council. He/she will be assisted by six permanent staff located at the Society's London offices situated near Baker Street. Responsibilities include finance, administration, for meetings, arrangements at Council and other committee meetings, membership, publication and staff management.

Appointments will be on the scale £13,500 p.a. - £16,365 p.a. with a London allowance of £1,365 p.a. a contributory pension scheme is available. Evidence of management experience and organisational skills is essential. Further details are available on request.

Applications, by 2 April, marked Executive Secretary and giving the names of two referees, should be sent to:-

The Senior Hon. Secretary  
Royal Statistical Society  
25 Bedford Street,  
London W1H 2BH.

Telephone: 01-723 5882

Tax Specialists

Legal and Accountancy Professions

The broad base of our recruitment operations enables us to offer the widest possible range of opportunities to tax specialists.

Our clients include firms of accountants and solicitors, financial institutions and public and private companies, both in London and in the provinces.

We are experiencing an increase in demand at all levels for high calibre solicitors, ACAs, and Inland Revenue Inspectors wishing to optimise their career potential. Prospects exist to partnership level.

If you would like to find out more about the positions we can offer please call Laurence Simons (Legal Profession) or Mark Brewer (Accountancy Profession) on 01-831 2000 (01-485 1345 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Michael Page Partnership (UK), 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Strictest confidentiality assured.



Michael Page Partnership  
International Recruitment Consultants  
London Windsor Bristol Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow Brussels New York Sydney  
A member of the Addison Page PLC group

Jonathan Wren  
Banking Appointments

We are seeking ambitious, self motivated graduate ACAs, aged 25-32 years for vacancies within merchant and international city based banks for the following areas.

Senior Accounting/  
Financial Control £20-£37,000  
(Banking experience essential).

UK & International  
Corporate Tax £30-£35,000  
(Creative financial skills a pre-requisite).

Audit v.neg£20-£35,000  
(Major bank experience essential).

For the above 3 vacancies contact Bryan Sales or Brian Gooch.

Operations Managers £20-£35,000  
Jonathan Wren is currently handling a number of senior operational positions on behalf of its major clients. We would like to hear from candidates with extensive relevant experience, preferably gained with London based international banks, ideally covering foreign exchange, accounts, loans, etc.

Contact David Williams or Anne Griggs.

Senior Credit Analyst £18-£25,000  
Successful international bank requires a highly experienced banker with a comprehensive knowledge of credit appraisal. Age range 28-35 years. The appointee will be required to reorganise an active department of six analysts.

Junior Credit Analyst £10-£15,000  
A large European bank seeks an experienced Credit Analyst with experience gained within a banking environment. Ideally aged between 21-25 years, the successful applicant will assist marketing officers in business assessment.

For the above 2 vacancies contact Richard Meredith or Trevor Williams.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

SYDNEY HONG KONG  
Jonathan Wren  
Recruitment Consultants  
170 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4LX. Tel: 01-623 1266

"The art of taxation is so to pluck the goose that the maximum number of feathers are obtained with the minimum amount of hissing".

Jean Colbert 1665

Help wanted to feather nests

up to £30,000

Tax Specialists

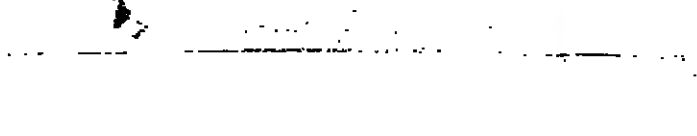
Colbert's statement still rings true today: thus there is a great demand for tax specialists who can keep the plucking to a minimum.

If you have good specialist tax knowledge (personal or corporate) our services will be in high demand. But this pleasant situation presents problems. You need to ensure that a move will enhance your experience, enable career development and bring appreciation for your personal style.

Candidates vary in their skills, objectives and personalities. Our philosophy as recruitment specialists is to view every candidate as an individual. We take time to find out about your specific requirements and to give free and unbiased career advice.

We will be pleased to tell you about the spectrum of appointments we are handling and their suitability for you. They range across both the professional and commerce and are mainly in the £9000-£30,000 salary bracket. There will be of interest to those who have recently made the decision to specialise or those whose tax careers are already developing well.

An informal career discussion can be arranged by simply phoning Paul Carrasco ACA or Carrie Andrews ACA on 01-242 6633 or send us brief details of your career to date at Macmillan Davies, Kingsbourne House, 223/221 Elgin Holborn, London WC1V 7DA.



FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY







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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

2. The second step is to gather relevant information and data. This can involve research, consultation with experts, or collecting data from various sources.

3. The third step is to analyze the information and data collected. This involves identifying patterns, trends, and relationships that can help in understanding the problem.

4. The fourth step is to develop a solution or answer. This involves applying the knowledge and skills gained from the previous steps to create a response that addresses the problem.

5. The fifth step is to evaluate the solution or answer. This involves checking the results against the original problem and requirements to ensure that the solution is effective and accurate.

6. The sixth step is to communicate the solution or answer. This involves presenting the findings in a clear and concise manner, using appropriate language and format.

7. The seventh step is to reflect on the process. This involves thinking about what was learned from the experience and how it can be applied to future problems.

8. The eighth step is to seek feedback. This involves asking others for their thoughts and suggestions on the solution and the process used to develop it.

9. The ninth step is to implement the solution. This involves putting the solution into practice and monitoring its effectiveness over time.

10. The tenth step is to review the results. This involves evaluating the outcomes of the implementation and making any necessary adjustments to improve the solution.

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1. The first group of people who are not in the labor force are those who are not in the labor force because they are not in the labor force.







